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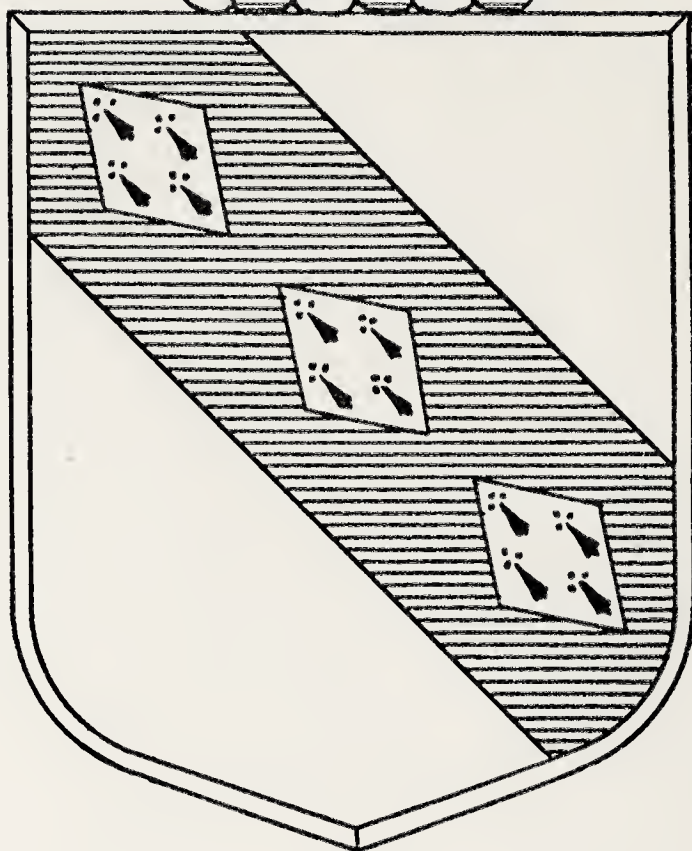
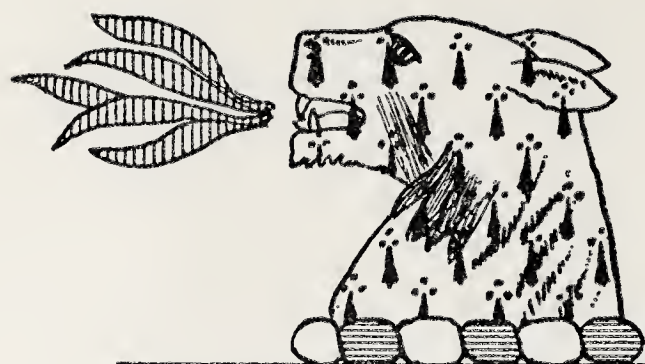
THE MARYLAND DENTS



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Dent

THE MARYLAND DENTS

A Genealogical History of the
Descendants of Judge Thomas Dent
and Captain John Dent who settled
early in the Province of Maryland

By

HARRY WRIGHT NEWMAN



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FOREWORD

HARRY WRIGHT NEWMAN is a recognized authority on geneology and especially with respect to Maryland ancestry; therefore, I interested him in writing and publishing this book as a memento to those of my immediate family; first, because I remain the last of my generation and also I have much sentiment about those who have gone on to enjoy reward beyond.

Being orphaned at nine years, I was fortunate with my brother and two sisters to be offered love and a home by our Aunt, Mrs. Eva Gwynn Mushbach, widow of George A. Mushbach, and my Mother's sister, whose memory I shall ever cherish with gratitude for her unselfish devotion and guidance. Whatever I may have done or become largely stems from her.

I likewise owe much to my devoted wife, Edith Baily Dent, who now through nearly 45 years of married life has brought love, confidence and cooperation in enjoying and meeting daily problems. It has indeed been an inspiring and rewarding period for which I shall always be grateful.

Finally, our own children have matured and we are fortunate to have lived through their development stages and to see them definitely settled in their homes with their own children, who have already given promise of lives for accomplishment.

For all the blessings enumerated and many others, including relatives and valued friends, I am happy to record eternal appreciation.

MAGRUDER DENT.

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JUDGE THOMAS DENT AND HIS
DESCENDANTS



THE ENGLISH BACKGROUND

On the banks of the River Dee in West Riding of Yorkshire is a town called "Dent", the founding of which goes back to at least the 12th century, and thus originated the English family of that name. Four centuries later two members of this Yorkish family arrived in the Province of Maryland and without doubt established the most distinguished branch of that name in America.

Dent or Dente was the word for dale or a small valley in old Anglo-Saxon, so it is self evident that the patriarch of the family took his surname from the dale around the River Dee. At present Dent is a compact little town reasonably characteristic of the many villages of the Pennine dales. It is largely of 18th and 19th century buildings, except the Church which is considerably 15th century. The town was once of great importance in the hand-knitting industry, but its position in this respect and that of a market and industry has been largely surrendered to Serdbergh, a few miles away.

As the sons of the patriarch attached their Christian names to his with the de of the Normans, there developed a strong and prolific family which eventually wheeled a certain influence upon the economic and political life of the shire. They fought in all the battles of that period, taking side with this noble and that noble—sometimes losing and sometimes winning. They rose in statue and soon earned the titles of "Gent." and "Esq.".

Several were knighted from time to time, especially during the War of the Roses, when North Britain for the most part displayed the Red Rose of the Lancastrians or adherents of Henry IV. In those ancient days when knighthood was in flower, only knighthood was bestowed for heroic exploits on the battlefield or at tournaments. As the Dent family rose in importance, it was armorialized by letters-patent and thus entitled to bear arms.

The patriarch selected a silver shield upon which he placed a bend and adorned it with three lozenges on which he placed dabs of ermine. Why he selected these charges and made the bend black and lozenges of ermine, records fail to relate, but it henceforth became the symbol and armorial bearings of the Yorkish House of Dent. It was the identical arms which was used by the early generations in Maryland and as a reverence for their heritage many members of the Dent family display it today. Unlike many family escutheons, the original Dent arms has undergone but few variances by cadet branches.

For their local pride and interest in the development of their native Yorkshire, the various members of the family did not mingle with the East Anglia and West County families. They were apparently satisfied with the fertile and pastoral scenes of their traditional environments of North Britain and intermarried with native Yorkshire families or the gentry houses of adjacent Durham and Northumberland.

While several branches of the Dent family appear in the Visitations of York in the sixteenth century, the herald somehow overlooked or failed to register the immediate branch of the Maryland emigrants. But it took an enterprising professor of natural sciences of Cambridge University, one Peter Dent, Gent., to record his pedigree in 1684, now a priceless document in the College of Arms, London.

Back in the late fourteen hundreds and early fifteen hundreds lived one James Dent, Gent., whose estate embraced "Ormesby", a parish in North Riding of York near Middlesborough and not far distant from County Durham. He and his wife begot several children, some of whom distinguished themselves in battle, jurisprudence and the Church. Like all families some remained loyal to the ancient English faith, while others clung to the Roman ritual. For the most part, however, the Dents were adherents of the Reformation and followed the tenets of the Established Church of England.

James Dent, of Ormesby, Gent., had a son and heir, Peter, who inherited the parental estates in Ormesby. Of his children there was a younger son, Peter, who acquired an estate which he called "Gisborough". He married a daughter of the Rev. William Nicholson, of Hutton Cranswick, a parish in East Riding near Hull. One Margaret by name, and it were they who became the parents of the learned professor of Cambridge and the father of Judge Thomas Dent, of Maryland, Esq.

Thomas Dent arrived at St. Mary's City during the sixteen-fifties bringing with him a young kinsman, John Dent. Immediately upon his arrival he became a leader in the political and social life of the Province and his descendants in each succeeding generation followed his leadership. Today while the Dent name is not associated so much with politics in America, the descendants of Judge Thomas Dent play a conspicuous yet for the most part conservative role in the social life of America. John Dent, the kinsman, became active in the Provincial Militia but was allied more with a liberal group than Judge Thomas Dent.

The two branches remained quite apart socially, politically and economically. In the early days there apparently were no intermarriages between them—but this was not so true in the Federal period or after the

Revolution. Judge Thomas Dent received favours from the Lord Proprietary during his political ascendancy from the defeat of the Puritans in Maryland during 1658 to the overthrow of Lord Baltimore's rule by the radical Protestants in 1689. On the other hand Captain John Dent was involved in some spurious contrivances perhaps through the influence of his father-in-law, the one-time Puritan John Hatch of Kent Isle notoriety and had intrigued with the plotters to overthrow the rule of the Calverts. Judge Thomas Dent on the other hand, although he had passed on before the ascendancy of William and Mary which encouraged the liberal Protestants to act against the rule of Lord Baltimore, received favours and honours from the Calverts up to the time of his death. Judge Thomas Dent, therefore, can be placed as a conservative and not a liberal like his compatriot, Captain John Dent.



JUDGE THOMAS DENT, GENT.

It is matter of conjecture which prompted Thomas Dent, of Gisborough, Yorkshire, Gent. to seek the adventures of the New World and especially the Province of Maryland. The Calverts, you know, were a Yorkish family and second to London Town the Yorkshiremen were more acquainted with the virtues and advantages of Lord Baltimore's Province than perhaps other Englishmen. He was young, certainly in his twenties, unmarried and not the eldest son to receive the inherited wealth of his parents.

What vital part as a youth he played in the Parliamentary Wars between the Royalists and the Puritans is not known, but Yorkshire espoused the cause of the Stuarts rather than the Cromwellians. He was down to London about the time that the Cromwellians were losing favour with the populace and the agents of the Royalists were intriguing to recall Charles Stuart, later Charles II, from his exile in France.

While in London he contracted to transport as his own expense five willing Britishers to Maryland, for which he was responsible for their passage and "keeps" during the voyage and then saw that they were suitably housed in Maryland. That he had sufficient financial resources for this task is therefore inevitable. In all probability he and his proteges sailed from the port of London, but the name of the ship is not known. They arrived in Maryland sometime before 1658 or just about the time that Lord Baltimore was able to wrestle his Province from the rule of the Puritans.

Fresh from the Inns of London where he read law Thomas Dent upon his arrival soon established himself as a lawyer and sought quarters on Barristers' Row in the then flourishing village of St. Mary's. Cecilius, Lord Baltimore, granted him 50 acres of land within the town's limits on Aldermansbury Street which he called "The Lawyer's Lodging." His marriage to the young daughter of the Anglican clergyman soon occurred after his settlement, and then a young and interesting family group developed.

Peculiarly his wife had her roots in Yorkshire also. She was Rebecca Wilkinson, the Virginia born daughter of the Rev. William Wilkinson and Naomi his wife. His father-in-law was the first Anglican clergyman to be accredited to Maryland, although services of the Church of England had been read by laymen from the beginning. He was the son of the Rev. Gabriel Wilkinson, born 1576, in Yorkshire, a graduate of Merton Col-

lege, Oxford, and vicar of Woodburn, Bucks, until his death on December 17, 1658. William, the son, was born 1612, entered Magdalen College at 14, and received his M.A. in 1632. Within three years he had married and settled in Virginia.

On November 20, 1635, the Rev. William Wilkinson received 700 acres of land in "Linhaven, commonly called Chisopeian River" opposite the plantation of Captain Adam Thorrogood whose daughter became the ancestor of the Dents of another generation. After a residence of some fifteen years in Virginia during which time he buried his first wife and married the Widow Budden with a daughter, he settled in Maryland and became rector of Popular Hill parish.

On October 10, 1650, he applied to His Lordship's Land Office at St. Mary's for 900 acres of land, his right for his own personal adventure and for the transportation of his three daughters, Mary, Rebecca and Elizabeth, his wife and her daughter and three servants—William Warren, Robert Cornish and Anne Stevens.

Thomas Dent had not been married too long when his father-in-law died. Feeling that the end was approaching, the Rev. Mr. Wilkinson drew up his last will and testament on May 29, 1663, in the presence of Randall Hanson and Daniel Smith. He probably wrote his own will as neither one of the witnesses were literate, yet it is not beyond the realm of possibility that one of his sons-in-law was present and was responsible for the writing.

After a few legacies to his step-daughter, Elizabeth Budden, the daughter of Margaret "my last wife" and his two grandsons, William Dent and William Hatton, the residue of his estate was divided between his son-in-law Thomas Dent and Rebecca his wife and his son-in-law William Hatton and Elizaebeth his wife. The instrument was probated at court on September 21, 1663, with the two sons-in-laws as executors.

It is quite evident from circumstances that his last wife, Margaret, had pre-deceased him, as she received no bequest in the will. The step-daughter, Elizabeth, was apparently of young age, because she died in 1673/4, unmarried when Thomas Dent and William Hatton stated in court that they had cared for her since the death of her step-father and requested letters of administration upon her estate.

The following children were born to Judge Thomas Dent and his wife, Rebecca:

1. William Dent, born 1660, married Elizabeth Fowke and Elizabeth Brooke. *q.v.*
2. Thomas Dent, no further record.

3. Peter Dent married Elizabeth Ballard and Jane Pittman Gray. *q.v.*
4. George Dent, *d.s.p.* before 1702.
5. Margaret Dent married May 26, 1681, Edmund Howard.
6. Barbara Dent, born 1676, married Thomas Brooke.

The first public office of note for Thomas Dent was his commission in 1661 as a Magistrate of the County Court of St. Mary's or one of the several Justices of the Peace, an institution for justice founded by Edward III of England back in the fourteenth century. In Colonial Maryland the office was invested with much dignity and prestige. He was soon advanced to a Justice of the Quorum, another honour of note for without the members of the Quorum no judicial action could be taken. He was a Magistrate as late as 1670.

As Lord Baltimore visualized his town of St. Mary's as an important metropolis and the entrepot for all trade with England and the Continent, it was incorporated and granted its first charter in 1667 with mayor, recorder, aldermen and councilmen. A second charter was issued in 1671, at which time Thomas Dent was named as one of the seven councilmen.

As the holding of office in those days was multifarious or prominent men holding several dignities, along with his judicial duties on the county bench, Thomas Dent was appointed in 1664 to the Shrievalty of the County—always an appointed post of that day. There is also a record of his being High Sheriff in 1667.

Continuing his interest in public service and winning the esteem of his fellow citizens in St. Mary's County, he was elected by the freeholders to the Lower House of the Assembly in 1669. He was reelected in 1674 and 1675 and held the office at the time of his death.

While no direct evidence has been found of any military title or his serving actively in any armed conflict, the Council had sufficient confidence in his ability to secure provisions for the proprietary militia upon several armed campaigns against hostile Indians. On February 8, 1667/8, he and Robert Slye were appointed by the Privy Council to secure "28 barrels of corn and 4000 weight of meat out of St. Marie's County."

On one occasion he acted as an emissary to the Colony of Virginia by which he was entrusted with a letter of instructions to Colonel John Washington and Isaac Allerton advising that Maryland would do her share of equipping five troops of men with sufficient horses, arms, ammunition and subsistence for an expedition against the warlike and cruel Susquehanna Indians. The tribe would come down from what is now eastern Pennsylvania and New York and ravage the Maryland Plantations and on oc-

casions murder the settlers. Upon his return to Maryland he was commissioned by the Council, dated November 1675, to equip and organize the militia for the planned expedition.

While his activities centered mostly in public service, he did not neglect the opportunity to enlarge his estate for the future security and proper maintenance of his growing family. Land was plentiful for a small fee or by the financing of Britishers to settle permanently in the Province, and while the quit rent to Lord Baltimore was high, it did not deter him from patenting undeveloped tracts on the frontier or purchasing desirable plantations along the rivers and creeks in the more settled parts of St. Mary's and Charles Counties.

Although he had been in the Province for several years, it was not until March 26, 1663, that he proved his rights to 300 acres of land for transporting himself into the Province and financing the passage of John Dent, John Winne, Conant Stephenson, George Atley and John Venables.

On May 4, 1663, William Hatton, his brother-in-law, assigned him for a valuable consideration certain land rights amounting to 550 acres. One of the witnesses to the assignment was John Dent, presumably the protege whom Thomas Dent transported. With these rights of 850 acres, the Lord Proprietary granted him on September 4, 1663, a plantation of that acreage on the Anacostia River in a then unsettled portion of Maryland to which he gave the name of "Gisborough". The survey stated that it lay on the east side of the Anacostia River in a branch of the said river called the Eastern Branch along a little arm which was given the name of Gisborough Bay. As the early surveyors had little knowledge of the geographic formation of the back country, the Anacostia River was undoubtedly the Potomac River. The Eastern Branch was the tributary of the Potomac which retained that name until the twentieth century when it was officially re-named the Anacostia River. Gisborough was virtually the land where the village of Anacostia developed in the 19th century, but now within the National Capital. Gisborough Point is still known today by old timers of the National Capital.

About this time or in May 1663, he and William Hatton agreed to the partition of the tract of 900 acres which they had purchased jointly a short time previously from Nicholas Guither known as "Guither" or "Guyther". This tract later became the seat of his son, Colonel William Dent, and his descendants which became known as the senior branch of the family.

On March 15, 1665/6, he proved to the satisfaction of His Lordship's Agent that he transported six additional settlers to Maryland at his own expense, namely James Thomas, John Mills, Katherine Festus, John Saun-

ders, William Pritchett and John Headland. He thereupon assigned the warrant to Alexander Frizell. On January 7, 1666/7, he entered land rights for transporting two additional settlers which he assigned to Sylvanus Gilpen, of Calvert County. On December 20, 1669, he conveyed his rights for bringing-in three persons to Francis Hill.

On July 9, 1670, he entered his rights for 29 named indentured servants, assigned him by Henry Hall, of St. Mary's County, for which he received a warrant for 1500 acres. Rather than patent this large survey he seemed to have assigned various portions from time to time. One of his assignees was William Hatton, Gent., to whom he conveyed 150 acres.

About this time Richard Edelen, Gent., was the Deputy Surveyor of St. Mary's County, a family into which the descendants of Thomas Dent later intermarried. It is certain that they were friends of that day, for Richard Edelen himself was likewise the son of an Anglican clergyman of England. On March 20, 1671/2, Richard Edelen made statement that he had laid out for Thomas Dent and William Hatton a plantation of 236 acres above Piscataway in the woods, indicating that it was not on a body of water, which was given the name of "Brothers' Joint Interest."

Before May 9, 1671, he had transported at his own expense eight additional settlers for which he received a warrant for 400 acres. This he assigned to Benjamin Salley, Gent., of St. Mary's County. He continued to finance the passage of prospective inhabitants and as late as November 18, 1672, he received a warrant of 750 acres for transporting 15 settlers. On the same day he assigned his warrant to Jeremiah Jadwin, of Westmoreland County, Virginia.

On May 26, 1673, he again proved land rights for bringing-in settlers, twelve in number, one of whom was a John Dent. These rights were assigned to Nicholas Proddy, of Charles County.

His brother-in-law, William Hatton, on August 14, 1674, sold him his share of a large tract known as "Guither" which they had bought jointly in 1662. In the deed he was styled "Thomas Dent of the said Province, Merchant", and the land consisted of 900 acres lying on the north side of the Potomac and on the west side of Nanjemoy Creek adjoining the plantation of Joseph Harrison. The consideration was 24,000 lbs. tob. and had been granted originally to Captain Nicholas als Guither on August 20, 1658.

On June 21, 1675, he received an assignment for 600 acres from William Calvert, son of the late Governor, and another 600 acres from John Bloomfield, of St. Mary's County. Two days later he was assigned an additional 650 acres by John Quigley, of St. Mary's County.

On September 16, 1675, he purchased from the sisters and heiresses, living in Beedale, Yorkshire, of Richard Watson, late of Charles County, deceased, a plantation of 200 acres known as "Wattfield", lying along Portobacco Clifts.

He inherited from his father-in-law a portion of "Westbury Manor", an authentic manorial domain of 1250 acres which had been granted to Thomas Weston, Esq., in 1642, with full prerogatives of a baronial court. Weston died and the manorial privileges descended to his daughter and sole heiress of New England. Weston was indebted to William Stone, one-time Governor, who claimed the manor by right of default. Stone seized the manor and later sold portions to various planters. One section known as Hull's Neck on the west side of St. Mary's River was sold to the Rev. William Wilkinson, father-in-law of Thomas Dent, and it was this portion which fell to Thomas Dent and his brother-in-law, William Hatton.

By a subsequent deed of his son and heir, it developed that Thomas Dent was deeded "Jenifer's Gift", of 100 acres, by Daniel Jenifer which was intended to be held in trust for the use of the ministers or ministry of Popular Hill Church for good and pious intent.

Besides his professional duties as a barrister and his many civil honours, Thomas Dent engaged in importing and was often styled "Merchant". His dwelling-plantation bordered one of the Creeks of the St. Mary's River, but it was apparently on the west bank as he was sometimes styled of St. George's Hundred. He had his own private landing as shown during a lawsuit when the defendant declared that he delivered a boat "at the landing M^r Thomas Dent in his Creeke in St^t Georges [now St. Mary's] River."

In the midst of a brilliant career Thomas Dent died at the age of about 42 in full manhood and left a fruitful widow, a daughter and four sons—the eldest being about 16 years of age.

He dated his last will and testament as of March 28, 1676, and was apparently quite ill at the time, because his death occurred in less than a month. The will was probated at the April session of the court on the 21st day. William Hattan, his brother-in-law, who probably wrote the instrument and William Harper were the only witnesses.

He spoke of his dearly beloved wife, Rebecca, made her the executrix and devised her the plantation at Portobacco Clifts in Charles County. William, the son and heir, who was in his middle teens was devised a portion of the plantation at Nanjemoy in Charles County and Westbury Manor in St. Mary's. Thomas, the second son, was willed the remaining portion of the land at Nanjemoy.

Peter and George, the younger sons, were devised equally the unseated plantations of "Gisborough" and "Brothers' Joint Interest" which eventually fell into Prince Georges County in 1695. Margaret, the only named daughter, was willed one acre of land in St. Mary's City and several negro slaves.

Speaking most lovingly of his faithful wife, he devised her the plantation "Wattfield" on Portobacco Clifts to "her heirs to dispose of for the good of her children or otherwise to keep it and at her death or during her life to bequeath or give to any child or children, as she in her discretion shall think fit". The residue of the real and personal estate was bequeathed to her "to dispose of as shall best please her". She was therefore well provided for and when she married John Addison a few months thence, she brought him a handsome estate in many respects.

Shortly after the death of Thomas Dent, his widow found that she was with child. A daughter who was given the name of Barbara was born in the early autumn of 1676. On November 20, that year, "Rebecca Dent, of St. Mary's County, Widow and executrix of Thomas Dent, late of St. Mary's County, Merchant, deceased" placed in trust with William Hatton 200 acres of land purchased by Thomas Dent from Richard Watson for the use of Barbara, her daughter. It was stated that Thomas Dent by his will had provided for his children with several parcels of land and "whereas the said Rebecca was big with child at the death of said Thomas and has since been safely brought to bed and delivered of a daughter named Barbara who is now alive and has no provision made for her in said will". The trust was to terminate when Barbara attained the age of 16 years, but in the event that she died before her 16th birthday, the land was to revert to Thomas Dent, the third son of Thomas and Rebecca Dent.

The personal estate was inventoried on May 4, 1676. At the Nanjemoy Quarters were four negro slaves and three white indentured servants, much livestock, a sail boat as well as the usual farm implements and furniture of its kind. The entire value there was 44,019 lbs. tob. At the dwelling-plantation in St. Mary's County were a number of books, silver plate, "Small hoop ring and a seale ring", the latter presumably his coat-of-arms. There were also a boat and a "canou" and much merchandise in the store. The entire personal estate was valued at 130,129 lbs. tob.

The inventory was filed by the widow on September 7-9, 1676. On November 20, 1676, as Rebecca Dent she made the deed of trust with William Hatton, but by February 13, 1676/7, she had married John Addison, a bachelor, certainly of middle age, as no previous marriage has been found for him.

Citations were issued her by the court on August 22, 1677, to render an account on the estate of her deceased husband, whereas she appeared in court on October 19, 1677. and "craved time till her husband, John Addison, returned into his Province."

John Addison was in Maryland as early as 1667, and soon identified himself with the civil and religious life of the Province, although he espoused the cause of the Whigs and was not allied with the Proprietary Party. He was first a Captain of the Foote in Charles County and later of the Horse, and a member of His Majesty's Council. As Colonel John Addison in 1694, he was appointed a trustee of the free institutions of learning in the Province.

In March 1689/90, John Addison acting on information obtained from Mr. Holliday and others addressed a letter to John West, of Virginia, stating that 9000 Frenchmen and Seneca Indians were surrounding Captain Bourne's plantation in Anne Arundel County. It later proved to be sheer propaganda to cause dissension in the Province, especially between the Roman Catholics and the liberal elements.

Madam Dent-Addison presided over the dwelling of her husband, Colonel Addison, in January 1694/5, when "a sufficient and lawful number of inhabitants of Piscataway Parish" met and elected the first vestry of the Parish and Perfected plans for the erection of St. John's, the mother church of the Parish. Forty pounds of tobacco were to be assessed all freeholders of the Parish payable to John Addison and William Hutchinson who were to employ carpenters for the erection of the church and vestry.

The trust on "Wattfields" for her daughter, Barbara Dent, was terminated by 1704, when it was stated that Rebecca Dent relict of Thomas Dent conveyed in 1676 the plantation to William Hatton for her youngest daughter, Barbara Dent, and that the said Barbara had survived and was then married to the Hon. Thomas Brooke, Esq. Furthermore, "Rebecca Addison and her husband John Addison" confirmed the deed of conveyance of "Wattfields" from Thomas Brooke and Barbara his wife to Edmund Howard, of Charles County, Gent.

On a business trip to England, Colonel John Addison died without a will, leaving a widow and only son, Thomas, at his plantation near Piscataway. On July 19, 1707, describing herself as "Rebecca Addison Sr., Relict of the Honourable John Addison, late of Prince Georges County, Gent., deceased," she "for ever Quitt claim all her right of dower in the estate of the goods, chattels, Lands, Tenements & Hereditaments which were belonging to the said John Addison, Esq., deceased, of which he said Rebecca might or may claime by viture of her Intermarriage wth s^d John

Addison, Esq." for a consideration of £620 to be paid by Thomas Addison, son and heir, of the said John Addison. The witnesses were William Hutchison, James Haddock, John Warren, John Michell and Hickford Leman. At the same time Thomas Addison obligated himself by bond to pay to Rebecca Addison £640 before July 20, 1709.

Her later life was spent with her daughter, Madam Barbara Brooke, and as the story goes, the Brookes acquired most of her wealth. She outlived her three Dent sons and died in 1726. While no visible strained relationship is found to suggest any differences between her Dent children and the Addisons, it is nonetheless true that she failed to leave any legacies to her Dent grandchildren.

She bequeathed her son, Thomas Addison, £20, and £200 to her grandchildren Lucy, Baker and Thomas Brooke, the children of her daughter, Barbara, by the latter's husband, Thomas Brooke. In the event that the three named grandchildren died without issue or under age, then the legacy was to revert to another grandson, Benjamin Brooke. The residuary estate went to her daughter, Madam Brooke, whom she appointed executrix.

Although circumstances would indicate that she should had been a wealthy widow at her death, her personal estate was surprisingly negligible, unless property was concealed, and consisted only of the articles which an aged person would have in her room. There were no slaves, no silver plate and no jewelry. The total value was only £20/3/3. Thomas Addison, her son, was the only kinsman who approved the valuation.

The will was dated November 5, 1724, and probated in Prince Georges County on August 20, 1726, by Alexander Contee, John Howard and Mary Delihunt.

COLONEL WILLIAM DENT, GENT.²

1660-1704

William Dent, son and heir of Judge Thomas Dent and Rebecca Wilkinson his wife, was born in or about the year 1660, inasmuch as in 1698 he deposed to be 38 years of age. His birth probably occurred at Hull's Neck, Westbury Manor, the seat of his maternal grandfather. Being a name-sake of his clerical grandfather, he was thus favoured in his will of 1663.

Of the parental estates, he inherited the Hull's Neck plantation on Westbury Manor in St. Mary's County and a portion of the large plantation on the Nanjemoy in Charles County, where he eventually established his dwelling-plantation.

Few colonial squires lived in more feudal style and elegance than William Dent, with his numerous slaves and white indentured servants on his several plantations. Besides his country seat on the Nanjemoy, he maintained a town house in Annapolis, the capital and social center of the Province, and well-stocked plantations on the Mattawoman in Prince Georges County and another stock farm at Portobacco Clifts. His library was considerable for that day and the value of his silver plate at his death was incredible. In his town house at Annapolis were two pictures, undoubtedly family portraits, as according to the writings of the seventeenth century, family portraits were the only pictures found in the homes of the gentry.

About the time he and his brothers were arriving at manhood or about the time that William and Mary ascended the English Throne, the Liberals or Anti-Proprietary Party in Maryland overthrew by force of arms the regime of Lord Baltimore and established a Royal Colony directly under the Crown. A series of Royal Governors were appointed with brief tenure of office until the arrival of Colonel Francis Nicholson, Esq., with a commission from Their Majestys, dated February 10, 1693/4. During his term of office the three sons of Judge Thomas Dent received numerous favours, and it is possible that there was a close blood relationship. Judge Dent's grandmother was none other than Margaret Nicholson of York. Concurrent with the rule of Colonel Nicholson, the Secretary of State was Sir Thomas Lawrence, Knt, Bart. who was also an intimate of the Dent family.

Certainly at an early age William Dent read law with one of the leading barristers of the Province, but it is not beyond the realm of possibility that he read law under the guidance of his father—for there is no record of his being sent to England to attend one of the English Inns of Law. On March 20, 1682/3, at the age of 22 he was sworn before His Lordship's Justices of Charles County as an Attorney and he eventually developed into one of the outstanding legal minds of early Maryland. He was eclipsed only in the next generation by the brilliancy of Daniel Dulany the Elder. At the age of 26 he began his public service to the Province as clerk to the Lower House of the Assembly.

His legal acumen was recognized in England, inasmuch as on November 10, 1691, he was appointed by the Court to be the Attorney "for our Sovereign Lord and Lady ye King and Queen" and was so sworn and admitted.

He became interested in the virgin farm land of his plantations on the Nanjemoy near the then growing port town of Port Tobacco which was

destined to become the capital of the growing County of Charles. Portobacco was the ancient spelling, as it was named from the tribe of Portobacco Indians and not the popular belief that it was a river port where tobacco was shipped and thus received its name.

At Portobacco settled after 1661 Colonel Gerard Fowke, Esq., from across the Potomac in Westmoreland County, presumably upon the plantations of the late Job Chandler, Esq., whose wealthy widow Colonel Fowke married.

In the vicinity of Nanjemoy and Portobacco grew up the several daughters of Colonel Fowke, especially one Elizabeth. Fair she must have been to have caught the eye of young William Dent who was winning his spurs in the military but more especially in jurisprudence. A romance developed and they were married at candle light at the home of Madam Fowke on February 8, 1684/5.

The following is from the minutes of the county court; though not recorded until "May ye 28-1689."

"I doe hereby certifie that on the eight day of Feby 1684 at the house of Mrs. Anne Fowke at Portobacco in Charles County I joyned together W^m Dent & Elizabeth Fowke Daughter of ye said Anne Fowke in the Holy Estate of Mattremony in ye presents of ye sd Mrs. Anne Fowke, Coll. W^m Chandler Mad^m Mary Chandler Mr. Gerard Fowke Mrs Mary Fowke Owen Newen & Divers others Witnesses. I haveing Received a Lycense from the Hon^{'ble} W^m Diggs Esq., to doe ye same."

By John Turlinge,
Presbet'n Anglican Ecclesiast.

His early seat was at his Portobacco Quarters for there his three oldest children were baptized, according to court records "the said three children were all baptized at ye dwelling house of ye said William and Elizabeth Dent near Portobacco". Between February 1689 and September 1690, he had moved farther up the river bank to Nanjemoy, for there his fourth son was baptized.

This marriage in Colonial America united two ancient and armorial families of Old England and it was perhaps the most promising and advantageous of all the marriages of the sons of Judge Thomas Dent.

Gerard Fowke, the father-in-law of William Dent, later earned the title of Colonel. He was brought to Virginia before 1654 by his brother, Thomas Fowke, Merchant, who received 3380 acres of land in Westmoreland County for transporting, that is, financing the passage of 27 persons. Thomas and Gerard were the sons of Roger Fowke, Esq., of "Gunston, County Stafford and Parish of Brewood", as he styled himself in his last

will and testament of 1649. He referred to his ancestral estate received from his father, John Fowke, and among his children, he provided for his sons, Thomas and Gerard, presumably then in England.

Gerard Fowke became the proprietor of thousands of acres along the south bank of the Potomac, and by marrying the wealthy widow of Job Chandler, he increased his estate considerably. Besides being a Magistrate of the County Court of Westmoreland, before his removal to Maryland, he represented that county in the Virginia House of Burgesses in 1663. Thomas Fowke, his brother, also represented Westmoreland County, but died at a comparatively young age in 1663, naming his brother, Gerard, the executor of his estate.

Job Chandler, of Portobacco, was first in Accomac County, Virginia, but settled in Maryland, acquired an estate, and married Ann Thorowgood, the daughter of Adam Thorowgood, of Lower Norfolk County, also a prominent gentleman of Virginia and a member of the House of Burgesses. Chandler died testate in 1659 at Portobacco and it was not so very long thereafter that his widow married Colonel Fowke.

On February 12, 1661/2, Colonel Fowke wrote Robert Slye, Merchant, of St. Mary's County and referred to the orphans of Job Chandler. It was furthermore announced that "Colonel Gerard fflowke of the County of Westmor Land, Gent., for and in consideration of a marriage lately had and consummated with me and the mother of the children above mentioned". Shortly after the marriage, Colonel Fowke removed to Maryland and thus established himself in Portobacco Hundred.

Continuing his public service in Maryland, he was elected a delegate from Charles County to the General Assembly. He died intestate, leaving several young children. Letters of administration were issued to his widow on October 30, 1669. Madam Fowke, though certainly in young womanhood, did not remarry, and at the time William Dent wrote his will she was living with him and her daughter at Nanjemoy.

To William Dent and Elizabeth his wife were born nine known children, several of whom predeceased their parents.

1. Thomas Dent, son and heir, born Nov. 15, 1685, bapt. Dec. 19, 1685, married Anne Bayne. *q.v.*
2. William Dent, born Dec. 13, bapt. Dec. 25, 1687, died Nov. 18, 1695.
3. Elizabeth Dent, eldest daughter, born 1688, died 1699.
4. Gerard Dent, bapt. Feb. 3, 1688/9, died soon afterward, buried in Durham Churchyard.
5. George Dent, born Sept. 27, 1690, bapt. April 16, 1696, married Anne, daughter of William Harbert, Gent. and Mary his wife. *q.v.*

6. Anne Dent, born Mar. 1692, bapt. Mar. 16, 1692/3, died unmarried, buried in Durham Churchyard.
7. Peter Dent, named after his great-grandfather, born 1693, baptized Jan. 13, 1694/5, married into the distinguished family of Robert Brooke. *q.v.*
8. Philip Dent, namesake and godson of Philip Lynes, died in his youth.
9. Elizabeth Dent, married Richard Tarvin and left by his many descendants.

It has already been stated that at a comparatively young age in 1686 William Dent was made Clerk of the Lower House and there he had the occasion of meeting the representative men of both houses of the General Assembly from all counties of the Province and also to learn at first hand the parliamentary methods of law making and procedure. He was rewarded in 1692 when he entered the Lower House as an elected delegate from Charles County. He received the confidence of the electorate at each succeeding election and on April 26, 1704, a short time before his death, he was elected the Speaker of the House.

It was in the science of law that he excelled and received many honours from Francis Nicholson, the Royal Governor, during twenty or more years that Maryland remained a Royal Colony after the Revolution of 1689. Colonel George Plater, the Attorney General for the Crown from 1692 to 1698, complained on November 13, 1694, that "there is so much King's business that he can not possibly discharge his duty without further help". Thereupon, William Dent was made his deputy and from all circumstances acted in that capacity until Plater resigned to become the Naval Officer of the Patuxent and Tax Receiver for the same. Dent's commission as Attorney General, was dated October 20, 1698, under the signature of Governor Nicholson and he was again appointed by Governor Seymour and continued to serve until his death.

At the time that he was serving as Attorney General, Governor Nicholson conferred another honour upon him by "constituting Mr. William Dent His Majesty's Advocate of the Admiralty Court" on October 21, 1698. He took the accustomed oath the following day.

On May 20, 1695, under the patronage of Governor Nicholson, he was sworn in as Their Majesty's Solicitor General. During his tincture of office, he made the important decision in 1696 that "His Majesty held no land in the Province but His Majesty's Agents may make leases" from the landed proprietors who held technically tenancy under the Lords Baltimore.

Although there is no record of his having been appointed to the Pro-

vincial Court or the Court of Chancery, yet he drew up the Rules for the former and for his services he was allowed 120,000 lbs. tob. out of the Public Treasury. He appeared, however, frequently before the court to represent his many and varied clients.

On November 19, 1694, by Governor Nicholson he was appointed the Naval Officer for Upper Charles County from Portobacco to an undetermined point or all the settlements along the Potomac until the frontier or wilderness was reached. As the plantations became more thickly seated along the Potomac and the inlets, his duties and responsibilities multiplied, so in 1697 he was authorized to appoint his half-nephew, Mr. Thomas Addison, his deputy. In 1700 he turned over to the Commission of Accounts for the Province as Naval Officer £21/18/—collected as duty on the importation of rum. The period which it covered was not disclosed.

Like his father, he engaged in trade, but perhaps not so extensively. Anyhow on October 14, 1693, "William Dent, Gent., of Charles County, having sent for a parcel of Indian goods which are now arrived and being desirous to carry on a small trade with the Indians prays a license which was granted."

Among his many duties both legal and legislative he found time to devote himself to the militia and defence of the Province. Before 1694 he was addressed as Captain. By 1694 he had been advanced to Major. In 1704 when he was commissioned His Majesty's Attorney General, he was addressed as Lieutenant Colonel William Dent. In the same year he was styled Colonel when he attended a session of the Privy Council.

Having been reared in the traditions and faith of the Established Church of England with several ancestors ordained to the Clothe, he was prominent in the life of the community and when the Anglican or Episcopal Church was instituted the Established Church of Maryland, he and his brother-in-law, Gerard Fowke, Esq. were elected members of the vestry of Nanjemoy Parish, now called Durham Parish.

On May 1, 1694, styling himself as the son and heir of Thomas Dent, Gent., he deeded to Kenelm Cheseldyne, of St. George's Hundred, Gent., "principall Vestryman" "Jenifer's Gift", of 100 acres, on Herring Creek which "was made over and conveyed to the said Thomas Dent in nature of a Trustee and for the use of the minister or ministry of Popular Hill Church and so to remaine forever" by Daniel Jenifer. Thereupon, William Dent conveyed to the vestry for "good and pious intent" and the further consideration of five shillings.

At the organization of King William School at Annapolis in 1696, now St. John's College, he served on the first Board of Visitors. His educa-

tional responsibilities and interests were not only confined to the welfare of King William School, for he was on the commission to erect schools and foster education throughout the Province.

When Governor Francis Nicholson assembled the Privy Council prior to his acceptance of the Governorship of Virginia he advised that body that he was delivering the government to his Excellency Colonel Nathaniel Blakiston who His Majesty had appointed Governor. He recommended to his successor all persons whom he had left in the various offices, but "particularly Major William Dent and William Bladen whom he had always found very loyal to His Majesty and ready in their duty."

That the Colonial Courthouse at Portobacco displayed the Royal Arms of England is evidenced by the fact that Major William Dent underwrote it and ordered it from Britain. At a court held in Charles County during March 1701/2, the High Sheriff was ordered to pay Major William Dent 1250 lbs. tob. for sending for "ye King's Arms for the Court House."

His wife, Elizabeth, whom he referred to as "my Dear and most respected wife" was alive when he executed his last will and testament on October 2, 1702. But before its probation a little more than two years thence, she had passed on and he had married Sarah Brooke, a daughter of Thomas and Anne Brooke and step-daughter to his sister Barbara (Dent) Brooke. Their nuptial life was necessarily brief and no issue resulted.

On June 14, 1704, Thomas Brooke assigned to his daughter, Sarah, a tract of land called "Dan" on Rock Creek. This was definitely her marriage dowry and her marriage to Colonel William Dent certainly followed shortly thereafter.

There are all reasons to believe that he presided over the closing session of the Lower House on October 3, 1704, certainly on September 30, according to record, but when the Lower House re-convened on December 5, 1704, he was deceased. At the opening session of that date, Henry de Coursey, Robert Goldsborough, Colonel Smallwood, Elias King and James Philipps were appointed to acquaint the Governor "that they were Come . . . to inform his Excell of the death of Col W^m Dent their Speaker and desired his Commands to make Choice of another."

At the time of his death he was handling the affairs of Sir Thomas Lawrence, Bart. Her Majesty's Secretary of the Province who was then in England. The Council reported that "it is thought fitting that the Council give order to some person to take care of Sir Thomas' interest". William Bladen was thereupon appointed.

His will with a codicil dated March 1, 1703/4, was probated in Charles County, on February 17, 1704/5, by John Beale, Gerard Fowke, William

Lock and Samuel Lockett. No provisions were made for his newly wedded wife who by law at his death was entitled to her thirds.

In his will he styled himself as of Nanjemoy and devised his dwelling-plantation including the land on the river called "St. Barbary", of 500 acres, "Wheelers Palme", adjoining of 150 acres, "Thompkinsons Long Lookt For", likewise adjoining of 200 acres to "my dear and most respected wife Eliz's Dent during her natural life and noe longer". To her "as a Token of the Sense I have of her virtue and worth", he bequeathed all his English servants, four negro slaves, one-half of the cattle and sheep on the plantation and all the household furniture in the house except the furniture which he would thereafter will to his children.

After his widow's decease, the dwelling-plantation and the land taken up at Mattawoman, the upper side called "Whitehaven", of 894 acres, he willed to his son, Thomas, also six negro slaves, silver plate, his pistols and sword, and one-half of the books in the study. Furthermore, Thomas was willed one-half of the cattle and hogs at both quarters at Mattawoman.

To his son, George, he devised the plantation and land at Portobacco where Richard Edgar lived and all the adjoining land of lots in 300 acres, 109 acres, 118 acres, 118 acres, and 125 acres, also the other part of "Harrison's Gift" containing 880 acres lying in Pope's Creek, also five negroes, livestock, silver plate, table linen, "best bed and furniture above Stairs", one-half of the books in the study and all the livestock at Richard Edgar's.

Peter, his son, was devised one-third of the land taken up with Colonel Addison and Mr. Hutchison in Prince Georges County of 1569 acres called "Friendship" and the tract of land which "fell to me by the Death of my brother George Dent" called "Gisborough" of about 400 acres.—also five negro and Indian slaves, furniture, silver plate, table linen and one-half of the stock at the Mattawoman Plantation.

To his "little daughter Eli'z Dent" he willed the lower plantation at Mattawoman of 500 acres including "Laurell Branch". She also received five negro slaves including "mulatto boy Robbins to serve till thirty one years", table linen, silver plate, household furniture and one-half of the stock on the said plantation. She was furthermore to receive £150 Sterling from the money in the hands of Mr. Jonathan Matthews, of London.

The land called "St. Barbary", "Wheelers Palme" and "Thompkinsons Long Lookt For" willed to his wife for her natural life was to revert to his youngest son, Philip. The latter also received four negroes, household furniture, table linen, silver plate, and all the stock of cattle between William Bishop and "St. Barbarys."

The remaining portions of his land at Mattawoman known as "Lawrell

Branch" and that which had been bought of Mark Lampton, he devised to his sons, Thomas and George, equally. The money to be drawn from Mr. Jonathan Matthews, his English agent, and "what parte of Shippes I have let Mr. Matthews sell" were to be used for his debts, but whatever remained was to be divided equally between his wife and five children, each child receiving a sixth portion at the age of twenty-one with the exception of Betty who was to receive her share at 18 or marriage.

To Nanjemoy Parish Church he bequeathed £5 to purchase necessities or ornaments for the Church. Mr. Matthews was to buy five mourning rings to be engraved "Prepare to follow Me W D" of 20 shillings each, one for Mr. Matthews, and the other four for his friends, Phillip Hoskins, Esq., Mr. Richard Harrison, Mr. Gerrard Fowke and Mr. Thomas Stone.

The land called "The Lodge" where Thomas Perry lived was devised to his son, Thomas. Peter and Phillip were to have their land at 19 years, but Thomas and George were to possess theirs at 17. The boys were not to have their money in England until 21 "to the intent that if they Take loose and Idle courses as too many has done before them and Spent what to play by which time may see their former folly and amend". Of the residuary estate one-fourth he bequeathed to his wife and the remainder was to be divided equally among all his children.

He appointed his wife, Elizabeth, and his sons Thomas and George the executors, while Phillip Hoskins, Richard Harrison, Gerard Fowke and Thomas Stone were to act as trustees. His son, Thomas, was to assume the executorship immediately and George when he qualified, that is, when he attained sufficient age.

The children were to be kept in school as much as convenient during their minority. "I hope I need not bespeake them to be loveing kind and Tender to one and other especially the eldest to the youngest but that I may not be wanting in anything that may them stronger I desire and request them in these last words to them nay I charge and require them as they will answeare the Contempt and Disobedience of the last words of a Dyeing father that they fear God and Keep his Commandments be just in their Dealings Dutiful to their Mother and be just and careful tend and kind one towards another allways takeing my friends and trustees advice I speake more especially to the elder in respect of the younger who may be under their Care."

By a codicil of March 1, 1703/4, he bequeathed his son, Thomas, the land which he had bought recently of Peter Achilles adjoining the dwelling-plantation. The land purchased of William Matthews at Popes Creek called "Huckleberry Branch" he gave to his son George.

From the bequests to his dear wife, Elizabeth, she was to give to "Mrs. Ann Fowke her mother" 1000 lbs. tob. as long as she lived and to have accommodation in his dwelling-plantation during her life. He added his friend, Captain Benoni Thomas, to his list of trustees. The goods at Liverpool in the hands of Mr. Richard Haughton were to be divided equally among his wife and children.

As mentioned previously the wife, Elizabeth, in his will was his first wife and not his widow who had been born Elizabeth Brooke his sister's step-daughter.

His widow soon married Captain Philip Lee, of Prince Georges County, a scion of the Lees of Westmoreland County, Virginia, and had issue by him. The rent roll of 1707 recorded that "Whitton Ditch", of 150 acres, was possessed by Captain Philip Lee of Prince Georges County in right of his wife the Relict of Coll. W^m Dent. Part of her dower was a portion of "Gisborough" which Peter, the son of Colonel William Dent on February 14, 1715/6, conveyed one-half to his cousin, Thomas Addison, for a valuable consideration, and attached to the deed was the release of dower by Philip Lee and his wife Sarah.

His will and the inventory of the personal effects after his death bespeak of the grand manner which he lived at Nanjemoy and also his business relations with the mother country. Among the items willed were a silver Bowle with a cover and Draggon or Serpent on itt, his Pistolls and Sword, always the mark of a gentleman, books, Silver tankard and flat silver. There were negro and Indian slaves and white indentured servants. Mourning rings were provided for his friends enscribed "Prepare to follow me W D". Of particular note was a "silver Montieth bowle with my Coate of Arms and Inscription Ingraven", given him by Governor Blackistone.

At his country seat at Nanjemoy were eight pictures, as expressed previously no doubt family portraits, and in the "closett" were 9 large books in folio, 9 large books quarto, 40 books in octavo, 67 small books and 28 "other books", making a private library of 153 volumes. There was a map of the world and one of Maryland and Virginia. Among the rooms were the hall chamber, porch chamber, the nursery, and the "room chamber". Inventory was taken of the stock in the store which had a loft, as he maintained a merchandise establishment which were carried on by most of the gentry and actually the only source of wealth in that day for the colonials.

At Nanjemoy were also 9 negro slaves in addition to an Indian boy and man held in bondage, and a white indentured servant who was his overseer. At the Mattawoman Quarters were 4 indentured white servants and 12

slaves and at the Portobacco Quarters were 12 slaves and much livestock.

His silver plate was valued at £69/13/1. Other interesting items were a pendulum clock and many looking glasses—all rare and expensive articles of that day. The total value of his personal estate was in excess of £1,1667 Sterling. Gerard Fowke and Edmund Howard, his two brothers-in-law, approved the appraisal. It was recorded at court on August 1, 1705. At an accountancy filed in 1724 by his son, for his estate was still unsettled at that time, the value of the personalty had increased to £2,728/19/9.

At that time Thomas Dent, the executor, recorded a legacy of £5 to Durham Parish, £6 for six mourning rings, £258/12/6 to George Dent, £257/18/3 to Richard Tarvin who had married a daughter, £328/19/9 to Peter Dent, and £344/19/9 to Captain Philip Lee “in part of his wife’s third”. A balance remained at that time of £783/9/3.

PETER DENT, GENT.²

16— - 1711

Peter Dent, the second surviving son of Judge Thomas Dent and Rebecca his wife, was born presumably at Westbury Manor in St. Mary’s County. By the will of his father in 1676, he received “Gisborough” and “Brothers’ Joint Interest” jointly with his brother, George, who died unmarried and without issue.

What factor turned his attention to the Lower Eastern Shore of the Province is not known, certainly the land was not as fertile and productive as the land in Southern Maryland of which he was a native. His sister, Margaret, and her husband, Edmund Howard, Gent., had settled there and perhaps that was the incentive. In fact the marriage of his sister, Margaret Dent and Edmund Howard probably occurred in Somerset County on May 26, 1681. After having served as Magistrate of the county court for Somerset, Edmund Howard returned to Charles County where he died testate in 1713.

In 1686 Peter Dent took out his first patent for land which was “New Wood Hall” of 200 acres which later fell into Sussex County, Delaware. This patent perhaps approximates his settlement in Somerset.

He followed in the footsteps of his father and brother, Colonel William Dent, but while his honours and dignities were not negligible, they did not surpass his brother’s. In 1692 he was chosen the assistant clerk of the Lower House of the Assembly which was apparently his first public office. He was outspoken in his protest against the removal of the capital from St. Mary’s City to Annapolis on the Severn in 1694, and in politics followed

his brother in his loyalty to William and Mary. He was definitely settled in Somerset County by 1695, when he was made the clerk of the Indictments for the court of Somerset. In 1700 he was commissioned the Deputy Commissary for Somerset and held that office as late as 1708.

In 1702 he was elected by the freeholders of Somerset as their delegate to the Lower House of the Assembly and was reelected in 1703 and 1704.

Among his friends in Somerset was Thomas Wilson, a prosperous planter and the son of the late Presbyterian preacher at Manokin. The former married Elizabeth, the daughter of Charles Ballard, but at the time of the marriage was the widow of John King of Manokin. On September 19, 1702, Peter Dent wrote the last will and testament of his friend, Thomas Wilson, and was bequeathed a legacy of 20 shillings for his service and a mourning ring. He provided for his widow, Elizabeth, and two daughters. The instrument was probated at court on February 3, 1703/4, Peter Dent being one of the witnesses. It was not so very long thereafter that Peter Dent persuaded the twice widowed Elizabeth to accompany him to the altar.

It is not known how long they enjoyed a nuptial life, but the only child, Rebecca, mentioned in the will of Peter Dent is credited to his wife Elizabeth. He married secondly Jane Pitman Gray who survived him and married John Scott.

His will was dated February 25, 1710, and probated on March 7, 1710/1, by his widow as the executrix.

After the payments of all debts the residue was to be divided between his wife and daughter Rebecca, but in the event that his wife was with child, the unborn child was to share in one-third of the residue. The silver cup marked P.D. was bequeathed to his daughter, also one gold ring, posey pin in memory of Thomas Wilson. Two other rings and the silver spoons were given to his wife.

His dwelling-plantation and other lands were to be divided equally between his daughter and his wife during life, but the latter and her heirs were to have "Tanton" at St. Michael's. His daughter was to remain with Joseph Gray.

His original last will and testament is on file at Annapolis and besides his signature is a broken seal which upon close examination does not reveal any armorial charges.

His personal estate was certainly not small, being appraised at £426/15/8. The inventory showed that his dwelling house contained an outward chamber, hall, an inner room below, and presumably other rooms. Outside were the Kitching, mild house, corn house, and cyder house which con-

tained a copper still with a capacity of 43 gallons. His library consisted of 39 English books, 11 books in Hebrew, Greek and Latin, law books, a Bible, Church catchesim and the Book of Common Prayer.. Other items of interest were one Silver hilted sword and scabard, cane with a silver head, and an ivory headed cane with a silver ferrell, six pictures, one silver seale, silver coat buttons, 8 silver spoons marked T^wE and a silver cup marked R D which was a legacy to his daughter.

In 1719 Margaret Linton, daughter of Thomas Wilson, sued John Scott and his wife who, as the executors of Peter Dent, acquired the executorship of the unsettled estate of her father. She accused them of certain concealment of property which was rightfully hers and requested the court to demand an accountancy.

CAPTAIN THOMAS DENT, GENT.³

1686-1725

The inheritance of Thomas Dent, son and heir of Colonel William Dent and Elizabeth Fowke his wife, was certainly not of negligible quantity and quality, but somehow his native sportsmanship in later life was greater than his luck.* His birth occurred in or about 1686, at Portobacco, and as the first son he was given the name of his paternal grandfather. By his father's will he was devised the Nanjemoy plantation, patented under the name of "Guyther", subject to the life interest of his mother, also "Whitehaven" of 894 acres, "The Lodge" on which Thomas Perry was a tenant, and other plantations. His share of the parental estate was well over 2000 acres. Furthermore, as heir-at-law of his brother, Philip, who died a minor without issue, he was able to add the brother's inheritance to his estate. Besides the wealth from his father's estate, he married an heiress who brought him a dowry and a personal estate of some magnitude.

His father in his will named him joint executor with his mother and brother George, but the unexpected death of his mother before the will was probated, and George unable to qualify, made him the sole executor and the responsibilities of managing his father's vast estate. He proved the will on February 13, 1704/5, and gave bond for £1000 Sterling, with Philip Hoskins and Gerard Fowke as his sureties.

Sometime before 1705 he married Ann, the daughter of Captain John

*Author's note. In my earlier publication on the Dent family appearing in "Charles County Gentry", published 1940, now out of print, I stated that this Thomas Dent was the son of Judge Thomas Dent, the Emigrant. Since then documents have been found which prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Thomas Dent was the son and heir of Colonel William Dent.

Bayne. His wife was a scion of that family which was identified with the founding of Maryland from the very earliest of days. Ralph Bayne [Beane] was an Adventurer on the Ark and the Dove in 1633, while his brother, Walter, soon followed thereafter. Captain Bayne, the father of Madam Dent, was the military commander of the Horse [Cavalry] in St. Mary's County, Magistrate, High Sheriff and certainly a planter of some substance in his day. He died testate in Charles County during 1700.

In 1690 when his daughter, Ann Bayne, was an infant, Captain Bayne, entailed upon her and the heirs of her body for forever and in default of such heirs then to her brothers and sisters, a tract of land known as "Locust Thickett", of some 700 acres, later to lie in Prince Georges County. This she brought to her husband as her dowry and later was the instrument which saved the estate for her sons. In February 1709/10, Thomas Dent and his brother-in-law, Elsworth Bayne, gave their receipts to Walter Bayne as their filial share of the estate of Captain John Bayne.

When Prince Georges was carved out of the western portions of Calvert and Charles Counties in 1695, several of his father's plantations fell into the newly organized county, especially "Whitehaven". Thomas thus began his public service as clerk of the county court. His commission dated November 24, 1702, was produced "from ye Right Honourable Sir Thomas Lawrence Knt and Baronet", with his father, Major William Dent, as bondsman. On August 23, 1703, he apologized to the court for his recent non-attendance, as he had sustained a broken thigh.

Having served with credit as county clerk of Prince Georges, when he may or may not have lived there, he assumed the management of his father's affairs at his death and established himself on the parental plantation "Guyther", but more generally referred to as the Nanjemoy Plantation and later as "Friendship". He served as High Sheriff of Charles from 1711 to 1714. In 1716 he entered the Legislature Chamber of the Lower House as an elected delegate from Charles County and served until 1718.

Philip Dent, his brother, died a minor and without issue before October 1707, when Philip Lynes, of Charles County, Gent., the godfather of Philip, assigned to Thomas Dent, the heir-at-law of his brother, Philip, the plantations "Rossberry", of 298 acres, and "Effton Hills", of 50 acres. The following day, Thomas Dent, conveyed these tracts to John Contee, Gent.

In 1709 he began to alienate piece by piece this vast landed holdings, which as early as that year was indication of economic stress. He sold "Wheeler's Palme" on the Piscataway above Maryland Point in that year

and this was followed the same day by "Thompkinson's Long Lookt For", of 200 acres, which had been received from his father's estate.

In 1711 he sold "Brother's Joint Interest", and in 1715 he deeded "Whitehaven", of 894 acres, to his brother, Peter, which had been taken up in 1695 by their father. In the same year he and Philip Hoskins were sureties, posted bond to the value of £1000 for John Courts, as administrator de bonis non on the estate of Colonel John Contee who had married Charity, the widow of Colonel John Courts. In 1717 he sold or mortgaged a portion of "Lawrell's Branch", of 192 acres, on Mattawoman Fresh, and also a portion of "Friendship", or his dwelling-plantation.

In 1718 he sold three tracts between Queen's and Burditt's Creeks in Nanjemoy aggregating 200 acres, and the same year he sold "Hopewell" or "Ye Lodge", of 183 acres, and also a 200-acre portion of "St. Barbara's Manor" on the north side of the Piscataway. In 1722 he and Ann his wife were forced through circumstances to mortgage their dwelling-plantation "Guyther", of 650 acres, at Nanjemoy to Pryor Smallwood.

At this time his father's estate was still unsettled. On August 4, 1718, he executed a bill of sale to his brother, Peter, as his filial share of the parental estate "all my personal estate of cattle, hoggs, sheep, horses and mares or of any other nature upon my plantation at Nanjemoy except which is agreed to be delivered to Mr. Richard Tarvin for his portion of the said estate."

It was quite apparent for sometime that he was sustaining financial reverses by his alienation of his land holdings and not visibly adding to his estate, so early in 1722 he and his wife petitioned the General Assembly to dock the entail on his wife's plantation "Locust Thickett" in order that he might meet some of the pressing demands of his creditors. The greatest ones seemed to have been John Courts, William Hawkins and Ledstone Smallwood. Court records indicate that games of chance in which he lost heavily played a vital part in his inability to meet his creditors.

By November 1722, Thomas Dent became the victim of the vicious law of that epoch, was placed under arrest by the High Sheriff, and cast into the close and unhealthy confinement of the Debtors' Prison. He declared that he had no visible means to discharge his debts but by selling his landed estate. Ann his wife consented to the disposal and the waiver of all dower interests, and also her entailed land given by her father.

In 1723 Thomas Dent still styled Gent., although in the Debtors' Prison, petitioned the Assembly to "discharge his body out of prison upon the surrendering on oath his whole estate real and personal to be equally distributed among his creditors". A number of his creditors endorsed the

petition and stated their willingness, but an unbending and unsympathetic Assembly rejected the plead.

Subsequent petitions were likewise submitted in 1724 for the various languishing prisoners of the Province among whom was Thomas Dent. His brother, Judge George Dent, at that time in the Assembly, was most active in his behalf, but the principal villains or the opposition were led by John Courts and Captain Joseph Harrison, delegates and fellow planters of Charles County. Furthermore, Harrison was a kinsman.

A lengthy and in some ways an unmerciful act was submitted to the Assembly in 1724. It was thus stated that by his lying in the gaol was no benefit to his creditors. He would, if released, at some convenient time transfer to the High Sheriff all his property for the use of his creditors except the necessary wearing apparel for himself, wife and children. That at any time in the future he should acquire any property except the wearing apparel, bedding and working tools not exceeding £10, it would be liable to his unredeemed debts. John Courts, William Hoskins and Ledstone Smallwood, three of the greatest creditors, were to have the first allowance. Thomas Dent was furthermore to receive no benefits of the act until the three so named creditors secure the several sums due them not exceeding £40. If at any time Thomas Dent or his wife made a wilful breach, then they were to "stand two hours in the pillory and have his or her left ear cut off and shall be wholly deprived of all and singular the benefits designed him by this Act". The act was ultimately passed and he was released from the horrors of the county gaol, after certainly three years in confinement and none of the luxuries which were his birthright.

A petition was presented to the General Assembly to dock the entail and permit him to dispose of the property "Locust Thickett". An Act was eventually passed under the condition that Thomas Dent would convey to his wife a parcel of land lying in Charles County on the north side of the Potomac River and north side of Nanjemoy Creek containing 650 acres in lieu of the breaking of the entail on "Locust Thickett". The land on the Potomac was "Guyther" or "Friendship", the country estate of his grandfather, being his dwelling-plantation and that of his late father.

He, therefore, on December 4, 1724, deeded to his wife the dwelling-plantation at Nanjemoy containing 650 acres to "the heirs of her body lawfully begotten and on failure of such to the brother or the sister of the grantee born of her mother and on failure of such to the heirs of John Bayne, late of Charles County, deceased". On the same day he conveyed "Locust Thickett" to Colonel Thomas Addison for a valuable consideration.

On November 12, 1725, deposing to be aged 39, he swore that "Efton

Hills" lay on the high cliff of Burditt's Creek. The fact had been told him about 20 years ago by Mr. Richard Harrison, the father of Captain Joseph Harrison, the present proprietor of the plantation "Verlinda."

The three years spent in the unsanitary Debtors' Prison wrecked his health and this unfortunate member of the Dent family lived a quiet and law-abiding existence after his return to private life, but he did not live long thereafter. He died about his fortieth year.

He was deceased by December 14, 1726, when at the request of Ann Dent, widow, of Charles County, John Howard "out of the estate of Thomas Dent, deceased, granted to his well-beloved cousin, William Dent", several ewes and a ram. John Howard is placed as the son of Edmund and Margaret (Dent) Howard who married his cousin, Rebecca Brooke, daughter of Thomas and Barbara (Dent) Brooke.

No administration of the estate, meagre that it was, which he was permitted to possess by the law was made after his death. He left two sons and probably some daughters of which there is no record. Thomas, his son, married Elizabeth, the Widow Cave, of Overwharton Parish, Stafford County, Virginia, and settled in that county. He died testate in 1750 without issue. William presumably the son and heir, married into the aristocratic Warren family of Southern Maryland and added much distinction to the name of Dent in his generation and left an honourable issue.

On May 30, 1728, Henry Darnall wrote to William Chandler to give a bill of sale of the cattle and produce "that I formerly left with Mr. Thomas Dent, to his widow and children". To which Mr. Chandler replied on August 23, 1728, "that I have bargained and sold to Mr. William Dent and Thomas Dent, sons of Thomas Dent, late of Charles County, deceased, all the cattle that were on the said Thomas Dent's plantation, belonging to the said Henry Darnall."

CHIEF JUSTICE GEORGE DENT³

1690-1754

George Dent, younger son of Colonel William and Elizabeth his wife, was born at "Guyther" known as the Nanjemoy Plantation. Quoting from court records, "George Dent ye son of William & Elizabeth Dent of Nanjemoy was borne ye 27 day of Sept. 1690. I hereby certify and make known that Mr. W^m Dent of Charles Co. had a son named George baptized & received as a member of Christ Church ye day month & year above written. By me Jo Waugh."

By the will of his father, though a minor at that time, he received

certain land at Portobacco and several portions of the tract known as "Harrison's Gift", aggregating nearly 1000 acres and also the realty owned by the Baker heirs around Baker's Creek, later known as Pope's Creek. Besides slaves, silver plate and other personalty, he was willed one-half of his father's library.

His receiving a goodly portion of his father's law books, it was evident, though only fourteen at his father's death, that he had inclination for a legal career and was planning to carry on the traditional profession of the Dents. In one way, he excelled his distinguished father, inasmuch as he became the Chief Justice of Maryland, the highest judicial honour of the Province.

Upon his marriage he established his dwelling-plantation on the land which was his inheritance around Pope's Creek and adding other acreage from time to time, his estate increased until in his matured years he presided over hundred of acres. At his seat which bordered the Potomac the traditional gracious living was emulated which has made Maryland famous throughout the land, for at his death there were 60 gallons of "cyder" and 30 gallons of imported rum in his wine cellar. In feudal-Maryland splendour he had 23 slaves divided between house servants and field hands. He furthermore maintained like most Maryland planters of wealth a private river landing, and a boat was listed in his inventory.

He was intimate with the Washington and Fairfax families on the other side of the Potomac and there was apparently much visiting back and forth. His daughter, Elizabeth, was visiting in Virginia when George Washington returned from his campaign in Western Pennsylvania after the defeat of General Braddock. Colonel Fairfax dispatched a letter to him at Mount Vernon, but three maidens added an amusing postscript.

Dear Sir:

After thanking Heaven for your safe return, I must accuse you of great unkindness in refusing us the pleasure of seeing you this night. I do assure you nothing but our being satisfied that our Company would be disagreeable should prevent us from trying if our legs would not carry us to Mount Vernon this night; but if you will not come to us, tomorrow morning very early, we shall be at Mount Vernon.

(Signed) S. Fairfax Ann Spearing Eliz'th Dent

In 1711 his sister, Elizabeth Dent, of lawful age to select her own guardian came into court and made choice of him as her guardian. In 1713 he with Barton Smoot was bondsman for his cousins, William Stevens Howard and Thomas Howard, the executors of their father, Edmund Howard, who had married his aunt, Margaret Dent.

About 1713 he courted and wedded Ann Harbert, apparently the sole-heiress of Captain William Harbert, Gent., a distinguished planter in the lower portion of the county in William and Mary Parish, by his first wife Mary. His father-in-law was one of the early vestryman of the parish and had also served on the local bench in Charles County. He died in 1718, although his last will and testament had been written on May 9, 1715. His wife's will, dated July 8, 1718, was probated the same day as his or on July 26, 1718.

To his daughter, Ann, then the wife of George Dent, he devised a 600-acre portion of "Clarke's Purchase" during life and at her death it was entailed upon his granddaughter, Rebeckah Dent, and his daughter's expectant child "and to the heirs of the said Rebeckah and the said child or either of them forever". The personal estate was divided between his wife and his son-in-law Dent. His wife bequeathed her entire estate to her Douglass grandchildren, her issue by a previous marriage.

Inventories of his personal estate were taken "At the Great House" on the dwelling-plantation, at "The Quarters" which indicated another seated plantation other than the dwelling, and "At Quarters at Mattawoman". The latter was well supplied with livestock and negro slaves. The total valuation was £869/14/7, at which time Joseph Douglass and Douglass Gifford of step-relationship approved as the next of kin. On July 8, 1719, an additional inventory was rendered the court appraised at £187/14/7 which brought the total value of the estate over £1000. Listed in the second inventory was a shallop and the mention of a runaway indentured servant.

The value of his wife's personal estate was considerable, but was not passed at court until August 24, 1719. Among the chattels were five negro slaves and one white indentured servant.

Like most men of the legal profession who acquired prominence in public service, the first office of note for George Dent was that of magistrate of the local bench in Charles County. The year 1717 was probably his initial appointment and he served virtually until he was elevated on October 20, 1728 to an Associate Justice of the Provincial Court, the highest court of the Province, and in 1732 he was made a member of the Quorum. He served continuously until he was appointed by the Proprietary Governor sitting in Council the Chief Justice of Maryland, an honour which he held at the time of his death.

While officiating as one of the Justices of the Court, he was appointed in 1737 the High Sheriff for Charles County and served in that capacity for about three years. Before entering the highest tribunal of Maryland

he was elected in 1719 a delegate from Charles County to the Lower House of the Assembly and remained in that body through 1727. With his many other duties he had time to serve in the provincial militia and in early records he was styled Captain, especially in 1726, and later Colonel, a grade which would indicate his commanding the provincial forces in the county. In the inventory of his estate was listed a silver-hilted sword which was certainly the symbol of his position and military honours.

Being one of the leading county squires, he was naturally placed on the commission "to erect schools for the encouragement of learning" and was made one of the "visitors" as trustees were called in that day. In 1728 he was on the commission for "better regulating" of the parishes in St. Mary's and Charles Counties. He was also a vestryman of William and Mary Parish at one-time and in 1751 there is a record of him as Colonel George Dent and his son George occupying pew no. 4 in the parish church at Wayside.

On February 23, 1750, he and Ann his wife made a deed of gift to their son, John, conveying to him for natural love and affections two plantations formerly in Prince Georges but by an readjustment of the boundaries fell into Charles County. One plantation was 500 acres of "Clarke's Purchase" and the other was the like acreage of "Clarke's Inheritance" on the Mattawoman. One of these was the tract entailed upon the unborn child of his wife at the time that her father executed his will, so it is evident that John was the eldest son and was born about 1713. The plantations were not to be enjoyed by their son until after their decease, but in the event of the son's death without issue or intestate, the plantations were to revert to the grantors' daughters—Elizabeth, the wife of William Penn, Sarah Dent, Rebecca Dent and Letty Dent and the heirs of their bodies.

His human sympathies were demonstrated in 1749 in his letter to Governor Ogle relative to a servant, Charles Eliot, of Nathaniel Folson, of Anne Arundel County, who was sentenced to death for horse stealing. It seems as if he was a servant first of a master of good standing who sold him to Folson, a man of evil character from whom Eliot frequently ran away. The last time he stole his master's horse in order to make a quick escape. Colonel Dent spoke of him as a young man not exceeding 21 and "in all probability if his life is spared take new and better courses".

Children of George and Ann (Herbert) Dent

1. Rebecca Dent, born 1714, died young.
2. George Dent married Eleanor Hawkins. *q.v.*

3. Elizabeth Dent married William Penn who died 1753 and secondly Richard Harrison.
4. Ann Dent married Gilbert Ireland and Major Sweeney.
5. John Dent married Sarah Marshall. *q.v.*
6. Rebecca Dent, the Younger, born 1735, married Thomas Hanson Marshall.
7. Letitia Dent married Kenelm Stoddert and Peter Dejean.
8. Mary Dent married Gerard Alexander, son of Robert and Anne (Fowke) Alexander, settled in Fairfax Co. Va.
9. Eleanor Dent married John Blackiston, Alexander McFarland [McParling] and Dr. James Bayard.
10. Margaret Dent married Kenelm Truman Greenfield.
11. Sarah Dent, spinster.

He drew up his last will and testament on April 28, 1754, it being probated on June 15, following, by Ignatius Doyne, Joseph Thompson and Richard Thompson.

To his wife Ann he devised one-half of the dwelling-plantation beginning at the river side near Mr. Richard Thompson to include the dwelling house, out houses, orchards and the tobacco house and to exterior of his land near James Latimer, but not to include the dwelling house where his son, George, was then living, on the proviso that she continued a widow and claimed no further dower in the other lands; 11 slaves to dispose by deed or will to his children and not otherwise; and one half of the personal estate.

To son George the other moiety or one half on the dwelling-plantation whereon the testator lived at Popes Creek with the dwelling house where George lived and also the other moiety at the decease of his mother; 10 negroes, and one half of the livestock on the plantation.

To son John Dent he confirmed the land at Mattawoman called "Clarke's Inheritance" and "Clarke's Purchase", each containing 500 acres which had been made over to him by deed of gift; also part of "Dent's Level" adjoining the other land given him of 280 acres, seven negroes then in his possession; livestock at Mattawoman and household furniture.

To daughter "Elizabeth now the wife of Mr. richard Harrison" he confirmed the negroes given her at time of marriage; also the reversion in the land which he purchased of Newman Tomkins where Capt. Bates then lived during life and then the heirs "of me the said George Dent".

To four daughters Ann Ireland, Sarah Dent, Rebecca Dent and Letty Dent, the Upper Quarter at Mattawoman equally.

To daughter Sarah Dent three negroes and other personalty.

To daughter Rebecca Dent three negroes and other personalty.

To daughter Letty Dent three negroes and other personalty.

To daughters Mary Alexander, Eleanor Blackiston and Margaret Greenfield, having already provided for them on their marriage one gold ring each valued at 30 shillings to be ingraved "In memort of George Dent".

Executors—sons George and John Dent

At probaton the widow, Madam Anne Dent, renounced the will and "would abide by what the Law would allow her". The bond of the executors was set at £2000, with Arthur Lee and Joseph Thompson as the sureties. The inventory taken on July 10, 1754 was approved by Rebecca Dent and Richard Harrison as the kinsmen.

His widow who rejected his dying wishes and demanded her thirds lived until 1764. Her last will and testament, dated May 4, 1764, was probated on June 20, following.

Her daughters, Elizabeth Harrison and Mary Alexander, were bequeathed wearing apparel and a mourning ring of "a Guinea price" each. To her daughter, Anne Ireland, she bequeathed Mulatto Tom, her riding chair and livestock. To her daughter, Eleanor McPharling [sic], she willed the negro wench called Moll then to said Eleanor's son, Herbert Blackiston. Margaret Greenfield, her daughter, received a slave, and Sarah Dent, an unmarried daughter, was willed negro girl Sarah, furniture and silver plate. Rebecca Marshall, another daughter, was bequeathed a negro wench called Cate, a pair of "white sating shoes and white silk stockings". Letty Stoddert, a daughter, was willed a slave, livestock and other personalty.

To her son, George, she bequeathed the still, two new brass candle sticks, the Spy Glass and a mourning ring. To her son, John, she willed slaves, livestock and other personalty.

She remembered several grandchildren—Ann Herbert Dent, Ann Dent, Anne Alexander, Anne Marshall, Anne Stoddert, William Herbert Ireland and Herbert Blackiston—with various articles of furniture, silver plate, table linen, feather beds and slaves. The residuary estate was devised to her son, John, whom she named executor.

Her daughter, Rebecca Marshall, is buried at Marshall Hall on the Potomac, and her headstone reads: "This stone is inscribed to the memory of Mrs. Rebecca Marshall daughter to Col. George Dent and Ann his wife who departed this life on ye 5 day of Dec. 1770 in the 33rd Year of her age by her loving husband Thomas Hanson Marshall".

JUDGE PETER DENT, GENT.³

1694-1757

Peter Dent, youngest son of Colonel William Dent by his wife, Elizabeth Fowke, was baptized on January 13, 1694/5, so his birth probably occurred in 1694 at the Nanjemoy Plantation. By his father's will of 1704, he was devised 1569 acres of "Friendship" in Prince Georges County

and also a portion of "Gisborough", of about 400 acres, which fell to his father by the death of the latter's brother, George, without issue, and also slaves and other personalty.

At the beginning of his public service, he continued to live perhaps at the parental dwelling with his brother, Thomas, but about the time of his marriage in 1726 he had settled on his plantation "Whitehaven", of 894 acres, on the Mattawoman in Piscataway Hundred, of Prince Georges County. He had purchased "Whitehaven" from his brother in 1715, and it became the traditional seat of his descendants for several generations.

His father had patented "Whitehaven" in 1695 at that time consisting of 890 acres in Prince Georges County, and why "Whitehaven" was selected as the name is a matter of some conjecture. Whitehaven is a town and port of considerable size in County Cumberland, England, where the Dents, according to present knowledge, had very little personal interest. The next year John Addison and William Hutchison patented jointly another tract which they called "Whitehaven", of 739 acres, in which is now the District of Columbia. Inasmuch as Cumberland was the ancestral home of the Addison family, some reason can be advanced why they selected that name for the second plantation bearing the name of "Whitehaven". Anyhow, "Whitehaven" became the dwelling-plantation of Judge Peter Dent and with resurveys and added vacant land, the plantation was brought up to 1330 acres. The name was also given to the Missouri Plantation of a cadet branch of the family some years later.

He married his cousin, Mary Brooke, born October 8, 1709, daughter of Major Thomas Brooke III and Lucy Smith his wife and the granddaughter of his great-aunt, Barbara Dent, by her husband, Colonel Thomas Brooke II, all of whom were active in the political and ultra-social life of Southern Maryland. It is well to assume that he constructed for his bride a spacious eighteenth-century dwelling on "Whitehaven", but apparently no vestige remains today.

As mentioned, his marriage was another union with the Brooke family. The arrival of the Rev. Robert Brooke, Esq., the progenitor in Maryland, is legion, and few if any American colonists could claim a more auspicious and spectacular entry into the English colonies. He came in a chartered ship, it is alleged, and it is definitely known through court records that a retinue of 21 man-servants and 7 maid-servants accompanied him "at his owne cost and charge". In his immediate family were his second wife, Mary Mainwaring, ten children and the first pack of full-blooded English fox hounds to arrive in America. The present blooded pedigree of American fox hounds are all acknowledged to claim canine ancestry to those

brought over by Robert Brooke. It has also been said that Lord Baltimore advised him that Maryland offered an excellent country for fox hunting which was the incentive for his leaving his London town house and his ancestral seat at Whitchurch in Hampshire. Then it is said that he was interested in the original voyage in 1633, but owing to the illness of his first wife, Mary Baker, at that time and her subsequent death prevented his accompanying the Adventurers in the Ark and the Dove.

But the most logical analysis of his leaving his native England is his loyalist sympathies and the rising power of the Cromwellians in Britain. Charles I on "Satterday [19th] October 1644. The King lay at Whitchurch at Mr. Brooke his howse that night", a quotation from the English archives.

Robert Brooke had been ordained a priest of the Established Church, but there is no record of his officiating in that capacity in the Province, although the Anglican clothe was greatly needed at that time in Maryland. While his family espoused loyalist sympathies there is some inference of his becoming reconciled to the rule of the Puritans during their regime from about 1650-1658. He was immediately made a member of His Lordship's Council by Lord Baltimore and held other honours until his death in 1658, including lordships on three baronial manors. His wife and all his children became converts in Maryland to the Roman Catholic Church, and his son and heir, Baker, married a niece of Cecilius, 2d Lord Baltimore.

Mary Brooke, the bride of Peter Dent, however, had been raised under the tenets of the Anglican Church, as her grandfather, Colonel Thomas Brooke II, had accepted the Established Church, although he had three brothers who were Jesuits. His wife, therefore, not only brought wealth but great service to the State, as her great-grandfather, Richard Smith, was the first Attorney-General of the Province, and her paternal grandfather, Colonel Thomas Brooke II, shared many honours, among which was a member of His Lordship's Council of State.

Children of Peter and Mary (Brooke) Dent

1. Elizabeth Dent, born April 22, 1727, died testate 1796 unmarried.
2. Peter Dent, born Jan. 10, 1728, married twice but his wives can not be identified. *q.v.*
3. William Dent, born Aug. 8, 1730, married Verlinda Beall. *q.v.*
4. Mary Dent married John Beall.
5. Lucy Dent married George Hardy on Feb. 11, 1753/4.
6. Anne Dent married ——— Clark.
7. Thomas Dent, born about 1735, married Elizabeth Edelen. *q.v.*

8. Walter Dent, born about 1744, married Elizabeth [Burrell]. *q.v.*
9. Eleanor Dent married Oct. 23, 1763, Alexander Burrell, per register of St. John's Piscataway Parish.
10. Barbara Dent.
11. Richard Dent, born circa 1748, *d.s.p.* 1818.

As an infant, his godfather, William Hutchison, Gent., in November 1696, made him a deed of gift for love and affection of one-third of the undeveloped tract "Friendship" which had been patented for 1571 acres jointly by him and Colonel John Addison. It lay on the first falls of the Potomac, now known as Little Falls, and at that time far beyond any settlements in the Province.

In 1715 he conveyed his moiety of 400 acres in "Gisborough" to Colonel Thomas Addison at which time Philip Lee and Sarah his wife, being his step-mother and her second husband, released all title and interest of dower in the land under the conditions that Peter Dent discharged him and his heirs from all rents.

In October 1718, his grandmother, Rebecca Addison, Widow, assigned him a negro called Will then in his possession, but formerly mortgaged to her by Thomas Dent, brother of Peter, and afterwards delivered to Peter by the said Thomas Dent in part of his filial portion of his father's estate.

After 1721 he was no longer styled "of Charles County, Gent.", but he had established himself firmly as a gentlemen planter of Prince Georges County. In 1727 he was commissioned the Deputy Commissary for Prince Georges and was holding that office as late as 1749. On November 28, 1749, his son, Peter Jr., was appointed to the former office of his father as Deputy Commissary "in room of Mr. Peter Dent Sr.", but his father resumed the office on May 28, 1751 "in room of Peter Dent Jr." In 1730 Peter Dent Sr. was commissioned by the Governor and the Council upon the approval of Lord Baltimore, a Magistrate of the County, later made one of the Quorum, and at the time of his death he was the Chief Justice of the County. In 1743 he was the Deputy Surveyor for Prince Georges.

In February 1743/4, he surveyed according to warrant "Grubby Street", of 100 acres, which was patented by his son, Peter Dent Jr., the tract being described as near Rockey Branch on the north side of the said branch falling into Middle Seneca Creek, and was to be part of the Proprietary Manor of Calverton.

In 1748 a certain portion of Prince Georges in the southeastern part of the County was ceded to Charles County in response to a petition of certain freeholders stating that "they labor under many inconveniences by being

obliged to attend Prince Georges County Court at so great a distance. . . . such hardships would be removed were they separated from Prince Georges County and made a part of Charles County". The new line separating the two counties was drawn "through the lower part of Mr. Peter Dent's Dwelling Plantation" until it struck the Potomac River. Thus Judge Peter Dent after 1748 found part of his land in Prince Georges and part in Charles.

In January 1749, he and his wife deeded to their son, Peter, 180 acres of land on the Mattawoman in Charles County on which their son was already seated.

Judge Peter Dent died in the autumn of 1757. The following item appeared in the *Maryland Gazette* of Annapolis as of October 20, 1757: "Sunday last died in Prince Georges County, Mr. Peter Dent who had been Deputy Commissary of that County upward of 20 years and for many years and at the time of his death Chief Justice of County".

By his last will and testament, dated October 5, 1757, he gave most affectionate advice to his children—"It is my earnest desire. . . . my dear children that they be dutiful to their mother during her life and loving and obliging to each other the youngest always Submitting to the Oldest in Reason and the Oldest bearing with the Infirmary of the Youngest and advising them in the best manner they can that they live in unity and concord all their lives".

The instrument was admitted for probation in Prince Georges County on November 23, 1757, with his son, Thomas, as the executor whose bond was accepted in the amount of £1000.

To wife Mary the house and plantation whereon he lived, four negroes and other personalty; the plantation included the land up and down the swamp—up as far as Joseph Marlow and down as far as the dividing line of Thomas Tennant.

To daughter Elizabeth the choice of four negroes not otherwise willed, and right to live with her mother until marriage, and personalty.

To son Peter 10 shillings, having already deeded land to him and given him livestock and negroes.

To son William all land in Frederick County and also all land then in his possession.

To daughters Mary Beall and Lucy Hardye five shillings and what they had in their possession.

To daughter Anne a slave, personalty and right to live with her mother till marriage.

To sons Thomas and Walter slaves and one-half of the land between the house where Joseph Marlow lived and upper end thereof and land taken up as part of the original tract Whitehaven equally; Thomas to have the first choice.

To daughter Eleanor negro at marriage and right to live with mother at home and same use of the plantation as her sisters Elizabeth and Anne.

To little daughter Barbara slave and right to live at home with her mother.

To youngest son Richard slave and other personalty and the other one-half of "Whitehaven" and the adjacent land taken up from Joseph Marlow to the land made over to son Peter.

Executrix—wife Mary Dent.

The will was proved by William T. Stoddert, Kenelm Trueman Stoddert and Richard Trueman Stoddert. While he gave fatherly advice to his children, he failed to leave any for his widow who on the day of probate expressed her displeasure with the provisions and issued a formal renunciation to the court.

The value of the personal estate was filed at court on April 20, 1758, by his son, Thomas Dent, manifesting a value of £627/12/7½. Peter Dent Jr. and William Dent approved as the next of kin. His wearing apparel was appraised at £12/4/6 exclusive of a wide collection of silver buttons, silver clasps, knee and shoe buckles. There were many law books in his library as well as "one large Bible", four books of Common Prayer and a dictionary. There were also considerable quality of silver plate and fourteen negro slaves.

On December 12, 1758, his son and executor, Thomas Dent, rendered an account to the court and accounted for legacies delivered to the following heirs: Elizabeth Dent £44/16/8; Peter Dent Jr. 10 shillings; Mary Beall and Lucy Hardy five shillings each; Anne Dent £44/16/-; Eleanor Dent £29; and Mary Dent £191/10/-.

At the census of St. John's Parish in 1776, his son, Richard Dent, was the head of a family being aged 28, and in his household were: Mary Dent, his mother, aged 67; Elizabeth Dent his unmarried sister, aged 49; Elizabeth Hardy, aged 13 years; Elizabeth Welch, aged 16 years; and 15 slaves.

The last will and testament of his widow, Mary Dent, was proved in Prince Georges County on December 11, 1781, having been written on January 10, 1779. She provided for her two unmarried children—Richard and Elizabeth.

The unmarried daughter, Elizabeth, died testate in 1796, although her will was written in 1791. A number of negro slaves were bequeathed to her relatives, namely, brothers William and Walter, sister Mary Beall, niece Martha Dent, nephew John Burrell, sister Anne Clark, niece Mary Burrell, and Agnes B. Dent of no stated relationship. The witnesses were

Walter Dent Guy and Anne Guy. Her brother, Richard Dent, was named the executor.

The will of the unmarried son, Richard Dent, was dated December 12, 1808, and probated some ten years later on January 31, 1818. To William Dent Beall, son of his sister, Mary Beall, he devised all realty and named him as the executor. He bequeathed \$500.00 to Walter Dent, son of his brother, Walter, and the same amount to Samuel B. Dent, son of his brother William, and \$400.00 to Theodore Dent, son of his brother Peter. To Martha Tubman he bequeathed a negro boy which he had purchased from Charles Tubman and some silver spoons. And to Polly Magruder, daughter of Colonel John H. Beanes, he bequeathed \$400.00 and silver spoons.

WILLIAM DENT⁴

1706-1757

William Dent, son and heir of Captain Thomas Dent and Ann Bayne his wife, was born at the Nanjemoy Plantation in the early part of the eighteenth century or about 1706. The personal estate of his parents which he inherited was rather negligible, owing to his father's misfortune, but through the gratitude of the courts he received the entailed estate "Guyther" and was the fourth generation to reside at the home plantation. By right of primogeniture he was duly acknowledged as the senior branch of the Dent family.

His wife was Ann, one of the two daughters and coheiresses of John Warren, Gent., of the Wicomico, by his wife, Judith Townley. The Warren was an ancient family of Cheshire, England, which goes back unbroken to the days of the Conqueror when the de Warenne scions were the most powerful barons of Britain. She was the great-granddaughter of Humphrey Warren, Esq., who was in Maryland as early as 1657, and who gave much service to the Province.

Children of William and Anne (Warren) Dent

1. George Dent married the Knox Widows. *q.v.*
2. Warren Dent, *d.s.p.* 1794.
3. Eleanor Dent married John Jordan.
4. Judith Dent married Jeremiah Chase.
5. Mary Dent married the Rev. William Dowie.
6. Ann Dent married Samuel Briscoe.
7. Grace Dent married Robert Harrison.
8. Rebecca Dent married William Harrison.

On August 13, 1735, he acquired from Benjamin Posey, of Prince William County, Virginia, but late of Charles County, the son and heir of Humphrey Posey, the tract "Wilford" at Nanjemoy, of 100 acres. Anne Posey waived all dower rights before Magistrates Robert Hanson and Gustavus Brown.

It seems as if the entailed plantation, one-time in the possession of his parents, was leased at some date to Edward Spooore, of Great Britain, Mariner, during and for the natural life of Spooore. On April 9, 1737, W^m Dent secured from Spooore for a consideration of £12 all the latter's interests in the lease. The plantation of 600 acres was described as the late dwelling of Thomas Dent, deceased, and which was then in the possession of the said William Dent.

His plantation like most pretentious estates along the Potomac maintained a wharf or private landing which was familiarly known as Dent's Landing. At one time the inhabitants of Durham Parish petitioned the legislature to erect a warehouse at or near "William Dent's Landing". The petition was read and rejected at a session of May 1748, but two days later at a second reading it was passed. The expenditures for the construction was to be borne by the parishioners of the parish.

Before his death he rightfully retrieved much of the lost holding of his father, and at the time of his passing his plantations consisted of: "Smoothy" of 400 acres; "Tanyard" of 79 acres; "Dent's Bottom" of 29 acres; "Wilford" of 100 acres; "Guyther" of 700 acres; "Remainder" of 126½ acres; and another portion of "Guyther" of 100 acres. It also developed that he was in partnership with a kinsman, Bayne Smallwood.

At his plantation on the Nanjemoy, hospitality and graceful living was certainly the order of the day, for the inventory of his wine cellar at his death contained 106 gallons of imported rum, 2 gallons of spirits [wiskey], 11 bottles of Mallago (sic) wine, and 2 gallons of Gonora.

From the inventory of his closet, the dressing room of that day, his wearing apparel was appraised at £29/2/—, not including 11 wiggs. Instead of silver buttons and buckles there were gold ones, a silver watch, and a discriminating library, with law books, Bible, Book of Common Prayer, Latin Dictionary, a number of volumes of the Tattler and the Spectator, all of which had been imported from the mother country. Another interesting item was "Fashionable Plate", presumably china, appraised at £83/16/—.

His last will and testament was dated October 3, 1756, and was admitted to probate in Charles County on February 21, 1757. Several of his children were under age.

The administration bond of his widow and executrix, Ann Dent, was fixed at £4000, with Bayne Smallwood and Richard Harrison as her sureties.

To son Warren the entire landed estate within the Province but reserving to his wife Ann the use of "that tract of land I now live upon during her natural life"; in the event that his son died without lawful issue of his body then to his second son George, but in the event that both died without issue then to their sisters equally.

To son George the land in Stafford County, Virginia, of 200 acres; also all claims and reversion in the land formerly belonging to the testator's brother Thomas then in the possession of Mr. Cox who had married his brother's widow, and if the land were sold by his wife, then the money was to be placed with interest for son George until he attained majority. His son George also was bequeathed "a Speciality of Mr. John Graham of Virginia" for £145/8/9, and also the money due from Mr. John Muschett; also money due from Mr. Allen Morea of Virginia of about £80—all of which were to be placed in good securities with interest until his son attained majority.

To grandchildren William Jordon and Ann Jordon about 20,000 lbs. tob. then in their father's, John Jordon, hands, and to be used for the purchase of negroes for his said grandchildren.

To daughter Judith Chase £20 Sterling to purchase plate.

To wife Anne all negroes, stock, household goods and plantation utensils during life and at her decease to be divided among his children—Warren Dent, Mary Dent, Ann Dent, Rebecca Dent, and Grace Dent. She was to settled with Bayne Smallwood "all our company accounts" and proceeds from the partnership were to be used for the maintenance of his five small children.

Executrix—Wife Anne Dent.

His widow was living as late as June 1763, when she petitioned to perpetuate the boundaries of "Smoothy" also known as "Gouches Land".

Judge Warren Dent, their bachelor son, died in 1794. He bequeathed legacies to his nieces, Eleanor Dowie, Janett Dent and Mrs. Anne Harrison. All property from the estate of his late sister, Mrs. Grace Harrison, he left to his nephew William Dent Harrison and nieces Anne Warren Harrison and Rebecca Harrison. The plantation tract "Brawner's Chance", of 153 acres, was to be sold and the money applied to the education of his nephew, William Dent Harrison. He devised "Blue Plains" which had been purchased from John Maddox to his nephew, Robert Hanson Harrison, and the plantation where Samuel Ratcliffe dwelt to his niece Mrs. Ann Harrison. The residue of his estate was willed to his brother, George Dent, whom he named as executor.

His literary taste was quite exemplified in the inventory of his estate,

when his library consisted the works of Pope, Milton, Catoes, Oldham's poems, and copies of the Spectator and the Tattler.

CAPTAIN GEORGE DENT, GENT.⁴

17—-1785

George Dent, son of George and Ann (Herbert) Dent, was born at his father's plantation near Pope's Creek, Charles County. His marriage with Eleanor Hawkins was the first union of a member with that early and affluent family of Southern Maryland. She was the daughter of Henry Holland Hawkins, Gent., by his wife, Jane or Johannah Greenfield, of Truman ancestry. Henry Holland Hawkins who had served in the Lower House of the Assembly from Charles County bequeathed his daughter, Eleanor, a legacy by his will of September 1746. At the probate five years later or on April 22, 1751, she was all likelihood Madam George Dent. George Dent Jr. was one of the bondsmen for the widow and approved the inventory as one of the kinsmen.

He inherited the river plantation of his father and from contemporary accounts his home was among the most pretentious dwellings which lined both shores of the Potomac but fell a prey to British raiders during the war.

Children of George and Eleanor (Hawkins) Dent

1. Eleanor Dent, spinster, died 1819.
2. Johannah Greenfield Dent.
3. Jane Dent, died spinster 1827.
4. Henry Dent, married ———. *q.v.*
5. George Dent married Elizabeth Yates. *q.v.*
6. Mary Dent married May 25, 1778, Henry Alexander Ashton and Johannis Storke.
7. Anne Dent married John Parham, M.D.

He represented his county of Charles in the General Assembly, taking his seat for the first time, it is believed, at the session of 1757-58. He was styled Captain, but it is believed that his military service occurred during the colonial period, inasmuch as his age in 1776 was rather against any vigorous participation as a Captain. He was High Sheriff for Charles in 1755.

He with others was made trustee of the "school to be erected for the counties of St. Mary's, Charles and Prince Georges at the Cool Springs, in St. Mary's County", to be called Charlotte Hall, according to the Act of the Assembly, dated March 1774. At that time it is evident that the

leading planters of Maryland still retained a reverence for their English allegiance and perhaps the thought of separation was foreign in their minds. The first institution of academic learning in Southern Maryland received the name of Charlotte from Queen Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, consort to George III. The school still functions and has trained many of Maryland's young men for successful careers.

In the early morning of April 1781, the British landed unexpectedly in Charles County and caused much damage including the burning of "the elegant seat of George Dent, Esq.". Daniel Jenifer of Portobacco writing to Governor Lee at the time gave a very vivid picture of the destruction, as follows:

"By Col. Ware's desire (he being stationed at a place without the convenience of writing) I have to inform your excellency, that on Thursday evening two arm'd Schooners with a Cutter and some barges came above Cedar point. Landed some of their men at Mrs. Young's ferry and plundered her of her most valuable effects; at 2 o'clock Friday morning this town was alarm'd with an Acc't of two barges being at the warehouse, possibly they being apprised of an alarm being given was the means of preventing any damage being done either to the warehouse or town, from thence they proceeded to Walter Hanson Esq., pillaged himself and family of every kind of wearing apparel and other valuable effects and carried off his son Sam'l a Lieutenant of the State Regiment and exceedingly insulted the whole family. They then moved to the Rev'd Mr. Matthew's and committed the same devastages, and then removed farther down and showed an intention of landing at G. B. Causin Esq., which was prevented by the appearance of some militia who had march'd from this place; from thence they proceeded to the elegant seat of Geo. Dent Esq., and after plundered him retired; but being strongly reenforced with three additional barges; they again landed and reduced to ashes all the houses in the place save the corn house which happened to stand at a considerable distance. The evening of the same day some barges were sent into Nanjemy Creek where they took out a vessel loaded with Indian corn and returned to their vessels without doing farther damage. Yesterday (as is supposed) upon observing some people busied in removing tobacco from Cedar Point warehouse, they immediately fell down and secured it; by lying three vessels in such manner as to subject any person opposing 'em to a cross fire from the vessels: However some few of the militia march'd down and attacked their sentries by which one of their men was killed. The situation of these few men being too dangerous they retired. Many were busied all night in getting the tobacco on board their vessels, which they perfectly effected, having only 2 hh'ds in the warehouse and a bulk of unprized tobacco belonging to the State. The armed schooners still lay at Cedar Point. Two ships and two other vessels are standing up the river; their object manifestly is plunder, and we are by no means prepared to prevent their designs taking effect; having an extent of coast but few arms and less amunition. I have it therefore in order from the Col to request your Ex'cy to forward some musquets powder and ball cartridge paper and if possible two or three

small field p's well mounted upon light carriages. The militia seem ready and willing to act with vigour if supplied with the means".

His last will and testament, dated September 12, 1785, was admitted for probation in Charles County on December 31, 1785. To his single daughters Eleanor, Jane and Johannah Greenfield he devised "Huckleberry Swamp" of 300 acres, but after their marriage or death it was to revert to his sons, Henry and George. To his married daughters unnamed he bequeathed negroes and other personalty. The landed estate was devised equally between his two sons, Henry and George, and the personal estate equally to his unmarried children.

His daughter, Eleanor, died a spinster in 1819, and made her sister, Jane Dent, the executrix. One-sixth of the value of her slaves was bequeathed to her niece, Elizabeth Dent Peyton, and one-sixth to her nephew, Johannis Greenfield Dent Storke, with the residuary going to the testatrix's sister, Jane Dent. After the death of her sister, she requested that the children of her brothers and of her sister, Ann Parnham, receive a part of the negroes equal to what would be the legal distributive share of their respective parents. Furthermore, she requested that her sister, Jane, bequeath by her will or otherwise give to the children of her brothers, Henry Dent and George Dent, and her sister Ann Parnham respectively a portion of the negroes herein bequeathed to the said Jane.

Her sister, Jane Dent, survived her nearly eight years. Her will, dated January 25, 1825, was probated July 10, 1827, with her niece, Eleanor H. Dent, as the executrix. She devised her brother, George Dent, all right and title to a tract on the Potomac lying between the estates of her said brother and General Brent, known as "Jarbo" or "High Clifts". She also bequeathed him her negroes provided that her brother gave her nephew Johannis Storke the slave Aaron. To her sister, Anne Parnham, and her nieces Eleanor H. D. Parnham and Susan Parnham and nephew George Dent Parnham each a mourning ring.

To her nephew, Johannis Storke she willed a number of slaves then in the possession of her brother, George Dent, also one-half of her live stock and utensils on the plantation. Other nephews mentioned were Henry Ashton, Henry Dent Storke and George Dent Storke. Slaves were also bequeathed to her niece, Eleanor H. Dent.

GENERAL JOHN DENT⁴

1733-1809

John Dent, son of Colonel George Dent and Anne Harbert his wife, was born in Durham Parish, Charles County, about 1733. On February

20, 1753/4, he received certain legacies from his parents in consideration of a marriage contract about to be negotiated between him and Sarah Marshall. The ceremony occurred seven days later, no doubt at "Marshall Hall", as it is now known, on the Potomac facing Mt. Vernon. She was born in 1735, the daughter of Thomas Marshall, Gent., and Elizabeth Bishop his wife.

Of the children born to General Dent and his wife, three only survived:

1. Elizabeth Dent, born Dec. 6, 1754, died young.
2. Anne Herbert Dent, born Oct. 30, 1756, died July 15, 1813, Adams Co., Miss.; married Feb. 24, 1774, William Mackall Wilkinson.
3. George Dent, born about 1758, married Ann Magruder Truman. *q.v.*
4. Thomas Marshall Dent, born Oct. 22, 1761, married Anne Magruder. *q.v.*

At the inevitable break between Maryland and England, no planter in Southern Maryland was more active and held in higher esteem than John Dent of Pomonkey Hundred. In 1775 when political ties were at the near breaking point, he was a delegate to the General Assembly from Charles County. He signed the celebrated document of the Association of Freemen of Maryland, the original of which now hangs in the gallery of the Maryland Historical Society. He also served on the Council of Safety as a representative of his county. In that capacity he was delegated to cooperate with the Commissioners of Virginia in erecting beacon lights on the shores of the Potomac. By April 30, 1776, thirteen had been erected in Maryland—one in Prince Georges, nine in Charles County, and three in St. Mary's County. On June 11, 1776, £50 were appropriated for the purpose.

The Maryland Convention on January 6, 1776, by ballot elected him Brigadier-General in command of all the Militia of the Lower District on the Western Shore. In July 1776, he reported to the Council that the fleet under Lord Dunmore had appeared at the mouth of the Potomac and it was feared that it would make a landing on some portion of the river in the Lower Counties.

The Council reported by dispatch the same month that it was expedient for him to remain in his District as the Flying Camp was not ready to march and that Captain [Rezin] Beall with his Independent Company was then at St. Mary's County ready to oppose the Enemy. Furthermore, that Captain Beall and his company were subject to his command.

A dispatch dated July 19, 1776, Charles River Head Quarters, from General Dent to the Council read as follows and throws much light upon the so-called Lord Dunmore's War which was heavily recruited from Tories in Somerset County.

Gent'n

On my arrival at this place on the 16th Inst. I found there had been an engagement with the Enemy with no loss but the misfortune of Capt. Rezin Beall being badly wounded, tho' its hoped not mortal. By four Deserters who came over to us yesterday we are informed the mate or midshipman of the Roe Buck was killed in the action. By the best information the Enemy have not more than 50 Regulars of the 14th Regiment, about 150 Tories and 100 negroes that bare arms: all of whom are landed every morning and embarked in the evening under cover of the Fleet, which continues in the mouth of St. Mary's River opposite the lower end of St. George's Island. Our strength at present is about 400 Militia exclusive of the Independent and Capt'n Forrest's company. I made bold immediately on my arrival (the strength of the Enemy being much magnified) to order to our assistance three full companies of Militia from Col Hawkins Battalion, to be selected from the interior part of the County, which I expect will arrive about to morrow evening, when I shall discharge an equal number of the most necessitous of those now on duty. The Fleet (which at first consisted of eighty sail) is now reduced to little more than half that number, many of the Tenders and Square Rigged vessels having gone to Virginia opposite the mouth of Potowmack where a pretty constant Cannonade has been kept up ever since I have been here. We are told by the Deserters (two more of which have come over since I began to write) that the fleet intend only to wood and water on the Island, burn all, or most of their small craft and proceed to sea. Had we a few great guns at a place called Cherry Fields Point, well planted and served, we might annoy the Fleet so as to oblige them to quit their Station. Capt. Forrest's Company has relieved an equal number of the militia who readily parted with their arms, such as they were. I shall as often as any thing of consequence happens communicate it to you with the utmost dispatch, 'til when I am your most obedient Serv't

JNO. DENT

On July 20, 1776, from "St. George's Head Quarters" he addressed the Council as follows:

Gent.

From the acc'ts given me by several deserters that the Fleet entered up Potomack River to water, and from the motions of the Roebuck, five other ships and a sloop I have the greatest reason to believe they are now on their way for that purpose. Nanjemoy, we suppose to be the place of their Destination. I have by letter informed the Committee of Correspondence of the motions of the above ships and shall endeavor to watch their motions and prevent their Depredations with all my Might. There was a brisk and severe Cannonade from two or three tenders and a row galley off Smith's Creek about six o'clock this morning the consequence of wh'h I have not yet heard.

I Gent. with much Esteem
Your most obed't Serv't
JNO. DENT.

On August 1, 1776, John Dent tendered his resignation as Brigadier General of the Flying Camp and recommended that Major Price take command of St. George's Island. The Council reply in accepting his resignation:

"We tell you candidly that we have no reason to believe that you were not equal to the task, or that you were deficient either in military knowledge, assiduity or personal courage and that we are surprised you should entertain any such idea. . . . we were actuated by no other views than those of service to the public, and taking effectual measures to repel the common enemy".

As chairman of the Committee of Observation he had recommended two of his kinsmen, George Dent Jr. and Henry Dent, as first lieutenants of the County Militia.

He resumed his seat as a delegate from Charles County to the State Legislature, and on November 8, 1776, he addressed the Council and recommended Hugh Gardner, of Charles, as captain of the militia. He served as one of the Magistrates of Charles during the war and in that capacity he took the Oaths of Allegiance and Fidelity to the State in his district.

On February 15, 1785, he made a deed of gift of "Clarke's Inheritance" on the east side of the road leading from Portobacco to Pomonkey to his son, George, for natural love and affections. According to the 1783 tax list, his estate embraced 1080 acres in Pomonkey Hundred.

His wife predeceased him and was buried on her father's plantation known as Marshall Hall "Under this Stone is deposited the Body of Sarah Dent daughter of Thomas & Elizabeth Marshall. She died April 9th 1795 aged 59 years and 8 months. This tribute due to the Memory of an excellent Mother and good woman is made by George Dent".

General Dent died in Charles County in 1809. His will, dated March 10, 1803, was probated on August 24, 1809. He devised his grandson, John Dent, the dwelling-plantation which embraced "Clarke's Purchase" and part of "Clarke's Inheritance". Servants, presumably negroes, were bequeathed to his three children and were to be instructed in some useful trade and then to be set free at the age of twenty one. The residue of his estate was willed equally to his three children—Ann H. Wilkinson, George Dent and Thomas M. Dent.

PETER DENT⁴

1728-1785

Peter Dent, son and namesake of his father by his wife, Mary Brooke,

was born at "Whitehaven", then in Prince Georges County, on January 10, 1728/9, according to the register of St. John's Parish, Piscataway. By 1749 he had settled on a 180-acre portion of his father's land on the south side of the Mattawoman in Charles County which his parents in that year conveyed to him in fee. He also shared with his brothers the parental plantation "Whitehaven", but it was not until 1770 that an equitable division was made among the three heirs. Unlike his father he was not interested in politics, but preferred to live the quiet life of a planter at "Whitehaven".

Before 1757 he married Mary Eleanor ———, and of his ten children, two—William the older and George are proved of this union. By December 2, 1760, he had married his second wife Anne ———. The identity of his first wife is unknown and likewise the second. By the incomplete entries in the Parish Register, the maternity of some of his children is unproved, but it is generally believed that all except the first two were issue of his wife Anne. It has been suggested that she was a Marbury, but documentary proof has not been established.

Children of Peter Dent

1. William Dent, born Mar. 4, 1756/7, of Mary Eleanor, died young.
2. George Dent, born about 1755, of Mary Eleanor, married Suzanna Dawson, the Widow Cromwell. *q.v.*
3. Theodore Dent, born 1760, of Anne, married Eleanor Sheid. *q.v.*
4. Mary Eleanor Dent, bapt. Feb. 27, 1763, of Anne, married July 2, 1786, George Hatton.
5. Joseph Dent, bapt. Dec. 16, 1764, of Anne.
6. Martha Dent, bapt. Sept. 28, 1766, of Anne, married Samuel Tubman.
7. William Dent, born Feb. 4, 1773, of Anne, died without issue.
8. Thomas Dent, died without issue.
9. Henrietta Dent married first John Dyer and on Dec. 23, 1785, Col. John Hancock Beanes.
10. Frances A. Dent married Hawkins Tubman.

By the readjustment of the boundaries between Charles and Prince Georges Counties in 1748, "Whitehaven", south of the Mattawoman fell into the former county. On April 16, 1770, Peter Dent whose wife Anne joined him in the deed, declared himself to be the son and heir-at-law of Peter Dent, Gent., late of Prince Georges County, deceased, and deeded to his brother, Thomas, for natural love and affections 339 acres of "White-

haven" and "Addition to Whitehaven", which began at the corner of "Market Overton".

In March 1778, he subscribed to the Oath of Allegiance and Fidelity to the State of Maryland in Charles County before his kinsman, General John Dent.

His maiden aunt, Rachel Brooke, of Prince Georges County, by her will bequeathed him a negro wench called Sall providing that he paid half of her value to his brother, William. When the will was probated in June 1789, he had passed on, but in January 1790, his son, Theodore, gave his receipt to the Rev. Clement Brooke, his aunt's executor.

The last will and testament of Peter Dent was dated June 21, 1784, it being probated in Charles County on March 26, 1785. He devised his wife, Ann, his whole estate during widowhood, but all children were to enjoy the use of the dwelling-plantation. At the death or remarriage of his widow, the dwelling-plantation was to revert to his sons, Theodore, Thomas and William. His sons were to provide especially for their sister, Frances, the youngest daughter. He acknowledged his son, George, and also spoke of his "poor, unhappy wandering son Joseph who ran away. . . . to be taken back and forgiven if he returns". He appointed his wife and son Theodore the executors.

Letters of administration were issued to the widow and her son, Theodore Dent. His estate consisted of two negroes, one of whom was blind and naturally without monetary value. Elizabeth Dent and Richard Dent approved the valuation of the inventory of September 17, 1785. The estate was unsettled by October 1789, when citations were issued to the executors. A second inventory with appraisement was filed with the court in March 1790, by Ann Dent and Theodore Dent.

Thomas Dent, the unmarried son, died early in 1800. The personal estate was not too extensive, but among the items were a gun, a sword and a silver watch. On March 20, 1800, his brother and administrator, Theodore Dent, filed the inventory. His sisters, Fanny Dent and Martha Tubman, approved as the next of kin. At the time of his death, Thomas Dent was indebted to Nicholas Lingan, of the District of Columbia, who instituted legal action in July 1810, against the estate of Thomas Dent through his administrator.

It was stated in the bill of complaint that Thomas Dent was in partnership with George Lee and Henry Marbury trading under the name of Henry Marbury's Co., as merchants with a warehouse at Pomonkey village. Thomas Dent became indebted to them for £38/15/4, and executed his bond in January 1798. He died and his brother administered on his estate,

but the personalty was insufficient to meet all obligations. The bill furthermore stated that Thomas Dent in common with his brothers, William and Theodore, was seized of certain realty. Judgement was obtained against the estate for £17/0/5.

The lawsuit cited the heirs of Thomas Dent and thus a complete list of the surviving children of Peter Dent was proved. The heirs-at-law were: brother George Dent, of Allegany County; brother Theodore Dent, of Charles County; the children of a deceased sister, Henrietta, that is, George Dyer, Francis Dyer and Polly Magruder, of Prince Georges County; the children of his deceased sister, Mary Eleanor, who married one Hatton, that is, Henrietta Hatton who had married Collin Hunter, of Alexandria, and Peter Dent Hatton, Ann Marbury Hatton, and George Hatton, of Prince Georges County, all minors; sister Martha the wife of Samuel Tubman; and sister Frances A. the wife of Hawkins Tubman, both of Charles County.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM DENT⁴

1730-1805

William Dent, son of Judge Peter Dent by his wife, Mary Brooke, was born in St. John's Parish, on August 8, 1730, according to the parish register. By the will of his father he received virtually all of the western lands and became the first member of the Dent family to invade the frontier which today is nothing more than Montgomery County—but in 1758 was organized into Frederick County out of western portions of Prince Georges and Baltimore Counties. In addition to the unseated land from his father's estate, he patented additional tracts in Frederick County.

He married into that mighty Beall family from Scotland, and if his wife were not a descendant of that venerable old Indian fighter and leader of the Revolution of 1689, Colonel Ninian Beall, who overthrew the Proprietary Government, she was certainly a kinswoman. She was born Verlinda, daughter of Judge Samuel Beall and Eleanor his wife, who pushed farther west than William Dent and ended up in Washington County where he died after sharing many honours and offices of note in Western Maryland. She was made an heir in her father's will, dated October 1774, and probated at Hagerstown on January 10, 1778.

Much legion has been written about Old Ninian, but it is known that he was foremost in establishing the Scotch Presbyterian Faith in Prince Georges County, and in 1704 gave without a monetary consideration one-half acre of land on the Western Branch of the Patuxent in the village of

Upper Marlborough for a Presbyterian Meeting House. A newspaper article of 1904, states that when the remains of Colonel Ninian were removed from his home plantation now within Georgetown of the National Capital, "it was found that he was six feet, seven inches tall, and his Scotch red hair had retained all of its fiery hue".

Children of William and Verlinda (Beall) Dent

1. Mollie Dent married ——— Campbell and Smyth Moore.
2. William Dent. *q.v.*
3. Peter Dent, born Mar. 16, 1761, married Sarah ———. *q.v.*
4. Anne Dent, born Dec. 10, 1767, died St. Clair Co., Ill., married Dec. 5, 1790, Guilford Co., N. C., by license Risdon Moore, born Nov. 20, 1760, in Delaware; died St. Clair Co., Ill.
5. Samuel Beall Dent.

William Dent was first of his family to manifest the spirit of adventure by removing to new and unsettled lands in the South. Perhaps the frontier of Maryland where he first settled was an incentive, but before the Revolution he removed with his young family to the western portion of North Carolina, then being developed with settlers from Virginia, Maryland and other Colonies.

In 1773 he purchased a 320-acre tract of land on Reedy Ford Creek in then Orange County, North Carolina, later to become a part of Guilford County. The purchase therefore approximates his removal from Maryland. He was there definitely by October 17, 1774, when he and his wife, of Guilford County, conveyed their Maryland plantation "Grubby", of 73 acres, to Henry Watson, of Frederick County.

He vied with his brother, Captain Thomas Dent, for public recognition as one of the leading citizens in his community. While in Maryland he was addressed as Captain William Dent, but any commission from official sources has yet to be found, but in Guilford County, he was a delegate from that county to the Provincial Congress of North Carolina held at Hillsborough on August 20, 1775. The same year he served as a member of the Committee of Safety for the District of Salisbury. When the Provincial Congress of North Carolina met at Halifax the next year, he was again a delegate.

On December 11, 1776, he was commissioned a Captain of the Revolutionary Army and was Commissary Officer of the 9th Battalion of North Carolina Troops.

His work in the Commissary Department and his furnishing provisions to the Army during the Revolution are amply demonstrated by a letter

dated Georgetown, March 4, 1781, from Thomas Beall of George to Governor Thomas Sims Lee, of Maryland, enclosing an order from Brigadier General Morgan in favour of "Mr. William Dent formerly a resident of this County [Montgomery]". At that time William Dent had driven up from North Carolina with his wife and "many small children".

Quoting from the communication, as follows:

"William Dent of Guilford County and State of North Carolina having furnished the troops of the United States with 2000 lbs. of salt pork, 200 bushels of Indian corn and 10 bushels of meal on condition of being furnished with the like quantity on his way to Maryland or in that State, I do heretofore hereby request all Commissarys and forage masters to issue to the said William Dent or his order (not exceeding the quantity above mentioned) taking his receipt for what each may issue and certifying the same on the back of this order. . . . Given under my hand at Guilford Court House in the State aforesaid, this 6th Feb. A.D. 1781".

On March 7, 1781, the Council of Maryland replied to Mr. Thomas Beall:

"Whenever a detachment of continental troops are obliged to remain in Georgetown and are without provisions and forage we think it necessary that you should supply them with so much as will serve them until they can march to the next place where provisions are regularly issued. We think the provisions ought to be returned to William Dent agreeable to the General Morgan's order and request you to deliver what may be due him after deducting the quantity he has received; but as it may be attended with inconvenience to deliver the whole immediately, you will deliver it to him at different periods most convenient to yourself and as he may want it".

After the Revolution he served as a Magistrate of the County Court, an office which he resigned on November 9, 1790, the resignation being presented to the Carolina House of Commons by John Hamilton. At the first Federal Census he was a slave holder with a moderate number of seven.

What induced him to leave Guilford County where he had won distinction in public service and was one of the leading patriots of the county during the Revolution is a matter of conjecture. It may have been sheer adventure, but the undeveloped and newly opened lands of Georgia called and by 1792 he was seated on a plantation bordering the Shoulderbone in Hancock County.

In Guilford County he found a strong and forcefull group of provincial Quakers and while it is not believed that he became a convert to their strict and unorthodox teachings, for he certainly did not refuse to bear arms during the Revolution, yet at least two of his children married into that sect and apparently became firmly convinced of its dogma. The reason

given for one daughter leaving Georgia and traveling to the Shiloh Valley of St. Clair County, Illinois, was her disbelief in the benevolent institution of slavery.

In 1795 he gave power of attorney to Smyth Moore, who was or later to become his son-in-law, to dispose of his realty in Guilford County, Carolina. In that year he was taxed for 200 acres of land on the Shoulderbone in Hancock County, and three slaves. His sons, Peter, William and Samuel, were all tithables in Hancock County with a few slaves but no land. According to the Hancock County tax list for 1802, he had 100 acres and two slaves.

His last will and testament was dated March 8, 1805, but the date of probation is missing. He named his wife, Verlender, daughters Mary Moore and Anne Moore, and sons William, Peter and Samuel. Another heir was John Campbell whose relationship was not stated, but probably his grandson.

It is family tradition that his widow, Verlinda Dent, migrated about 1812 to St. Clair County, Illinois, with her daughter Ann who had married Risdon Moore in order to live in non-slave territory.

CAPTAIN THOMAS DENT, GENT.⁴

1735-1790

Thomas Dent, son of Judge Peter Dent and his wife Mary Brooke, was born about 1735 in Piscataway Hundred, Prince Georges County. By the request of his brother, Walter, the parental landed estate was divided by a deed of partition in 1772, whereby the definite bounds of "Whitehaven" and "The Addition to Whitehaven" were defined, the claimants being the brothers Thomas, Richard and Walter. At that time the portion of their brother, Peter, had already been laid out. The divisions were considered to be 339 acres more or less.

On November 11, 1771, before the partition of "Whitehaven", he had purchased from his brother-in-law and sister, George and Lucy Hardy, "Leith" at Piscataway, which had formerly been in the possession of Joseph Noble, but which was actually a portion of the larger tract "Littleworth". The latter was the dwelling-plantation of his father-in-law, and it undoubtedly came into his possession by his marriage with a Noble heiress.

In 1773 or thereabouts he married Elizabeth, born about 1748, the daughter of James Edelen and Salome Noble his wife, a wealthy and socially prominent branch of the early Edelen family which settled first in St. Mary's County. The Edelens were Roman Catholics but several had joined

the Established Church and as to the allegiance of Elizabeth, his wife, there is some doubt, but her children were of the Episcopal faith. Her father died testate in Prince Georges County during 1768, and bequeathed her £30 at the age of sixteen or day of marriage.

Children of Thomas and Elizabeth (Edelen) Dent

1. George Fairfax Dent, born 1774, *d.s.p.*
2. George Washington Dent, born 1776, married Matilda Bayne and Ann Hutchison. *q.v.*
3. Lewis Dent married Ann Brooke ———. *q.v.*
4. Horatio Dent, *d.s.p.*
5. Patrick Dent born circa 1786 married Susannah Gerard Wood. *q.v.*

Of the children of Judge Peter Dent, Thomas seemed to have carried on the tradition of the family relative to public service more than the other brothers and became actively engaged in events leading up to the Revolution. He was present at a meeting of the Committee of Observation for Prince Georges County on August 4, 1775, held in the home of Richard Carnes of Piscataway. On May 15, 1776, he was recommended by Jonathan Beall to the Council of Safety as an officer in any regular force that may be raised in the Province either Continental or Provincial. Accordingly, on September 1, 1777, he was commissioned a Captain of the Lower Battalion of Prince Georges Militia. In 1778 he took the Oath of Fidelity and Allegiance to the State of Maryland.

In 1776 he was the census emunerator for St. John's and Prince Georges Parish. In his household were the following members: himself aged 41 years; Elizabeth Dent his wife aged 28 years; George Fairfax Dent, aged 2 years; George Washington Dent, aged 2 months; George Hardey, a kinsman, aged 14 years; John Clark aged 40; Judah Murray aged 35; and 18 negro slaves.

On August 31, 1776, he made a certification of his work as Captain Thomas Dent and stated that Richard Thrawls and James Prather refused to answer the questions and to give a list of the members of their family within his district, and that Anthony Addison had neglected to do so after "several applications" by him.

On May 20, 1777, he and Elizabeth his wife deeded to Richard Carnes a lot in Piscataway being part of two tracts called "Littleworth" and "Leith". As Captain Thomas Dent on December 10, 1784, he claimed a stray sorrell mare which had wandered on his plantation.

After the Revolution and perhaps before he was engaged in trade with

affiliation with the Contee trading house in Baltimore. A period of economic stress followed the Revolutionary War and with deflated currency, his business suffered to such an extent that he was forced to mortgage several of his slaves. Before he could recover or redeem his lien, he was taken ill and died soon thereafter, or about 1788.

Business became depressed and Thomas Dent who wanted to mortgage his land sent for Thomas Contee. Contee refused to accept a mortgage but insisted upon a bill of sale. Thomas Dent thereupon sent for his brother, Richard Dent, who prepared a bill, and Contee finally agreed but wanted more security that Thomas Dent was willing to give. Agreement was finally reached and Thomas Dent consented to sell Contee eleven of his seventeen slaves. The parties sent for Justice Thomas Marshall, a neighbor, who was unable to come. The bill was later delivered for Thomas Dent's signature, but at that time he was quite ill and unable to sign.

His realty was sold by trustees of the estate on May 18, 1803. The lot of 4 acres on the south side of the Piscataway was sold to William Marshall for \$970.00, the lot on the north side of the creek was sold to Electus Edelen for \$100.00, and the plantation on Mattawoman Swamp was bought by George Washington Dent for \$6,120.00, all land lying in Prince Georges County.

George Washington Dent, the son, filed a petition on March 12, 1804, stating that Thomas Dent died in 1788, leaving five children—George F., George W., Lewis W., Horatio and Patrick. George F. and Horatio died intestate and without issue. The widow in May 1804, when she filed her petition gave her age as 50 years.

On October 6, 1804, Madam Elizabeth Dent made a deed of gift for natural love and affections for her grandson, John Walter Stoddert Dent, of a slave known as Sophia. His father, George Washington Dent, paid five shillings as further consideration.

In 1813 the wealthy bachelor brother of Madam Dent, Dr. James Edelen, died testate and bequeathed his sister a legacy of \$2,500.00, but she was to pay the interest on \$500.00 to her son, William Lewis Dent. At her death the \$500.00 were to be distributed among her children. She also received a negro girl Suck and additional legacy of \$250.00. To his nephew, George W. Dent, he bequeathed \$250.00.

A law suit Edelen's Executors vs Dent's Admx later developed in court which was decided in June 1830, whereby it was shown that at the time James Edelen died he owed his sister \$1409.88 on a single note. The court held that the legacies to his sister were not the mediums to cancel the debt.

In August 1804, Franklin Boucher Franklin, of Charles County, filed a bill of complaint in the Court of Chancery against the widow and administratrix of Thomas Dent and his heirs, namely, Elizabeth Dent, George Washington Dent, William Lewis Dent and Patrick Dent. It was stated that in 1784, Thomas Dent, of Charles County, a man of considerable property and well known in the neighborhood, was a merchant dealing extensively in the sale of goods and the purchase of tobacco alleging to be in partnership trading as Thomas Contee & Sons. Franklin sold him 49,918 lbs. tob. at 45 shillings per hundred weight as by account in the handwriting of Thomas Dent, and received partial payments until December 20, 1790. Thomas Dent died intestate leaving a personal estate sufficient to pay his debts and that the estate owed him a balance of £184/14/1.

It was furthermore stated that Thomas Dent left considerable property in Charles and Prince Georges Counties, particularly a house and lot in Piscataway. The realty descended to his children, namely, George Washington Dent, William Lewis Dent, Horatio Dent and Patrick Dent, all of Prince Georges County. The court requested a guardian to be appointed to Patrick Dent, whereas his mother stated that he was not more than two years of age at his father's death. A bill of revivor of May 6, 1800, stated that all infants had come of age except Patrick.

George Washington Dent and William Lewis Dent answered the bill of complaint and admitted that their father was in partnership with Thomas, Alexander and Benjamin Contee, but that the real estate of their deceased father was not considerable. Thomas Contee and his sons took benefit of the insolvent act and the case against him was declared by the court as non-suit.

Thomas Contee stated that he was the sole partner in the Baltimore establishment for himself and sons, Alexander and Benjamin, and that Thomas Dent was the sole partner in the Pomonkey store, and that each kept their own books. The business was to procure shipments of tobacco for the London House of Benjamin Contee and David Farquharson.

The last will and testament of his widow, Elizabeth Dent, dated December 21, 1814, was proved May 21, 1816, by William Marshall, Joseph Edelen and Richard Gregory.

To son George Washington Dent, his wife Anne and his children, ie, John W. S. Dent and Eleanor Matilda Dent and two unnamed children by his second wife legacies.

To son Lewis W. Dent, his wife Anne and grandchildren George F. Dent, Elizabeth W. Dent, Thomas R. Dent, Mary Anne Dent, William W. Dent, and Patrick Dent legacies.

To sisters Mary N. Stonestreet, Sarah Pye and Catherine A. Edelen wife of "my brother Joseph" legacies.

Residuary estate among the children of George W. Dent, except the two eldest, and children of Lewis W. Dent except the eldest daughter.

Executor—nephew Joseph N. Stonestreet.

Her personal estate was appraised at \$2080.00 on October 11, 1816.

WALTER DENT⁴

1744-18—

Walter Dent, son of Judge Peter Dent and his wife, was born at "Whitehaven" about 1744, and according to family tradition he married Elizabeth Burrell. The 1776 census for St. John's Parish states that his wife was born about 1740 and would therefore be a contemporary of Alexander Burrell who married his sister Eleanor.

On September 14, 1771, he and his brother, Thomas, granted their share of the parental plantation to their brother Richard. Unlike his ancestors he took no interest in public service, and his participation in the Revolution was apparently minor.

At the census taken in St. John's Parish in 1776, he gave his age as 32 years and his wife, Elizabeth, stated her age as 35, and reported the following children at home—Chloe aged 9, Jane aged 5, Walter C. aged 4, and Ann aged 2. In his household was also Margaret Montgomery, aged 29, of no stated relationship, and two slaves.

On November 2, 1790, Walter Dent and Elizabeth his wife, then of Prince Georges County, conveyed 339 acres of "Whitehaven" and "Addition to Whitehaven" to John Harris, stating in the deed that he with his brothers Thomas Dent and Richard Dent were devisees of their father, Peter Dent, and that on September 14, 1771, he and his brother, Richard Dent, executed deeds of partition. It was furthermore stated that "Whitehaven" adjoined the plantation "Market Overton" held by the descendants of Governor William Stone.

By his disposing of his land, it was obvious that he was preparing to remove from Maryland. There are reasons to believe that he was the Walter Dent who was domiciled for a time in Franklin County, Virginia, but according to family traditions he died in Oglethorpe County, Georgia, where some of his children had settled. His daughter Chloe Hanson Dent married Thomas John James Stoddert, by license issued in Prince Georges County on September 21, 1790.

In 1794 he was made an heir in the last will and testament of his sister,

Elizabeth, but he was apparently not a resident of Maryland at that time. A son, Richard, born about 1778, married in Columbia County, Georgia, removed later to Tuscaloosa County, Alabama, where he died. (*q.v.*)

CAPTAIN GEORGE DENT OF W⁵

175--1801

George Dent, second son of William and Anne (Warren) Dent, was the only son of his parents to carry on the name of Dent in the senior branch. His heritage was considerable, for he not only inherited a portion of his father's vast land holdings, but that of his bachelor brother, Judge Warren Dent, as well. Furthermore, he found widows more attractive than maidens—married two who brought dowries of no small proportions.

During his bachelor days, he served in the State Militia during the Revolution. His commission as Captain of the 26th Battalion of Charles County was dated May 9, 1778, but he probably served before that time, as the militia rosters are far from complete. In March of that year he subscribed to the Oath of Allegiance and Fidelity to the State of Maryland.

After May 28, 1785, he married Rose-Townshend Knox, the widow of Captain Robert Knox, of Charles County, Maryland, who possessed estates in Virginia. From circumstances she was probably not the only wife of Captain Knox. She was the daughter of Mrs. Elizabeth (Harrison) Mastin, of Charles County, who as the widow of Robert Mastin died testate in Charles County during 1785. By her last will and testament among other bequests she devised her daughter, Rose Townshend Knox, "Woodbury's Hope" for life, then to her [Rose] daughter, Ann Townshend Knox in fee tail, but in default of heirs of her body then to Robert Dade Knox. It is believed, however, that Rose-Townshend, the wife successively of Robert Knox and George Dent was an issue of her mother's prior marriage, probably with a Dade or perhaps a Hooe. Mrs. Elizabeth (Harrison) Mastin was without question the daughter of Captain Joseph Harrison by his wife Verlinda Stone.

The will of Captain Knox was probated in Charles County on October 30, 1782, though dated September 1, 1781. On February 13, 1782, by a codicil he provided for a legacy of £800 for his unborn children "whereas my wife Rose Townshend is now with child". He bequeathed his wife her "legal dower allowed in this part of the world", and mentioned his estates in Scotland. At probate the widow renounced the provisions and demanded her thirds in both realty and personalty. Captain Knox mentioned two brothers in his will. He advised his executors to obtain the

effects from his brother John's estate from his brother William "as I have had nothing and there should be a considerable balance in my favour".

His estate was unsettled as late as April 1792, when George Dent and his wife, Rose Townshend Dent, filed an account with the court of Charles County, reporting a balance of £975/9/10.

The Maryland estate of Captain Dent was on "Friendship" at Nanjemoy, where the first census reported him as a planter of considerable parts with 38 negro slaves. His brother, Judge Warren Dent, was also domiciled on "Friendship" and was living in bachelor splendour surrounded with his classic library and 34 slaves.

On June 18, 1792, as George Dent of William, he certified to the court that he had removed from Fairfax County to Charles County 12 negroes for employment and not for sale. They were the descendants of slaves willed him by his father in October 1756, from the estate of his uncle, and the slaves were residents of Virginia before 1783. With the exception of the slave Vernon, all were descendants of Hannah, formerly belonging to his father William Dent.

In the early part of his married life, he maintained his seat on "Friendship", being the fourth generation to reside or to maintain quarters at Nanjemoy, but presumably after his marriage he resided sometime on his plantation through curtesy in Fauquier County, though sometimes in court records he is styled of Charles County and at other times as Fauquier County. His only son and heir, presumably upon his marriage, established his seat on "Friendship", while his father enjoyed the Virginia estates.

His first wife died in October 1794. By November 30, 1796, he had wedded Elizabeth Harrison, daughter of Richard Hanson Harrison who at the time of her marriage was the widow of John Knox, of Fauquier County.* John Knox was living as late as December, 1794.

*It looks very much like George Dent married the widow of his step-son, John Knox. John the brother of Captain Robert Knox was deceased by 1781.

On November 30, 1796, George Dent and Elizabeth his wife and William Dent and Janet his wife, of Fauquier County, deeded to Alexander McConchie, a tract of 84 acres in Fauquier County. At that time it was inconvenient for Elizabeth Dent and Janet Dent to travel to court which usually indicated that the wife was expecting. A clerk therefore was ordered to take their waivers at home.

In 1797 when he deeded land to John Maddox, of William and Mary Parish, Charles County, he styled himself as "George Dent of William formerly of Charles County but now of Fauquier County". At the August

1801 term of the court in Charles County, "George Dent of William formerly of Charles County but now of Fauquier County" who declared himself to be the guardian of Elizabeth Knox who had married William Morris, of Charles County, ordered the court to issue citations against Morris to file an account of his ward's estate.

Circumstances would indicate that his children were all issue by his first wife, yet it is possible that there was some issue by his last wife, as she was probably expecting in 1796.

1. William Dent, son and heir, certainly an heir of the first wife, married Janet Knox, daughter of John Knox, late of Fauquier Co., Va., sometime before Nov. 1796. *q.v.*
2. Anne Dent, 1st daughter, married ——— Thomas and secondly after May 1803 Samuel Hanson, and resided in Charles Co.
3. Elizabeth Dent, 2d daughter, married Robert Knox and after May 1803, married Elijah Brown.
4. Janet Dent married before May 1803, John Shumate.
5. Rebecca Townshend Dent, born Mar. 9, 1789, married Jesse G. Scott, by license issued in Fauquier Co., Oct. 5, 1816, later of Huntsville, Ala. Her headstone reads "Rebecca T. Scott wife of Jesse G. Scott died Nov. 28, 1830".
6. Grace Harrison Dent, born Oct. 7, 1791, married Burgess Field, by license issued in Fauquier Co., Jan. 4, 1815, later of Culpeper Co., Va.

Captain George Dent was deceased by September 3, 1801, when his son and heir, William, requested and was granted letters of administration upon his father's estate. The personal estate in Fauquier County was appraised at £982/2/6, including ten negro slaves.

The inventory of his personal estate in Charles County was filed at court on July 14, 1802, appraised at \$4685.50. There were 32 slaves at Nanjemoy, four of which were aged and of no value.

On March 25, 1802, Elizabeth Dent, widow of George Dent of William, late of Fauquier County, deeded to William Thomas, of St. Mary's County, several tracts of land, inasmuch as George Dent of William by his deed of November 10, 1800, conveyed to the said William Thomas "Wallington" of 160 acres, "Hog House" of 42 acres, a tract surveyed for Humphrey Warren on July 31, 1683, called "Warren's Discovery" except that portion assigned by George Dent to Robert Crain in 1799, "Burgess Discovery" except that portion assigned by George Dent to Robert Crain in 1799, "Burgess Upzone" of 15 acres, part of "Hanson's Discovery" of 18½ acres, and also "Tan Yard" of 78 acres. The deed was in the form of a correction owing to faulty or irregular assignment and was acknowledged by Elizabeth Dent, the widow of the original grantor.

The estate of John Knox was not finally settled until after the death of Captain George Dent, or at the May session of the court of 1802 in Fauquier County, when the widow received personalty valued at £272/15/- and 418 acres of the landed estate. Settlement was also made to Elizabeth Dent who is styled a sister of Robert Knox and also to Janet who had married William Dent.

At the June court of 1803 for Charles County, William Dent was made the guardian of his two minor sisters, Rebecca aged 14 and Grace Harrison Dent aged 12, with William Dent Harrison and Francis Elgin as his sureties.

Several years after the death of George Dent, his heirs conveyed their interest in a plantation known as "Brett's Discovery" in Durham Parish, Charles County. In December 1816, Jane Shumate, presumably a widow at that time, Jesse G. Scott and his wife Rebecca T. all of Fauquier Co., Va., and Burgess Field and Grace H. his wife of Culpeper County, were the grantors in a deed of conveyance to Thomas Price Sr., of Charles County, for their undivided interests in "Brett's Discovery". In October 1817, Samuel Hanson and Anne his wife of Charles County, and William Dent and Janet his wife assigned their rights in the same plantation to Thomas Price Sr.

CAPTAIN HENRY DENT⁵

1755 - 1803

Henry Dent, son of Captain George and Eleanor (Hawkins) Dent, was born about 1755 at his father's plantation on Pope's Creek. On February 26, 1776, at the outbreak of the Revolution, his uncle, General John Dent, recommended him for a First Lieutenantcy. In 1778 he subscribed to the Oath of Fidelity and Allegiance to the State of Maryland before his father, Judge George Dent. There are all indications that he served throughout the war in the County Militia, and on February 9, 1781, he was advanced to Captain in room of Captain Benjamin Philpot.

His wife has not been identified. She predeceased him, leaving an only daughter, Eleanor Hawkins Dent, born September 1799.

He died intestate. Letters of administration were issued to his brother, George Dent of George, at the June session of the court in 1803. Jane Dent and Samuel Hawkins were sureties. The value of the personal estate was approved by Eleanor Dent and Janet Dent. The orphan was placed under the guardianship of her uncle, Samuel Hawkins, being at the time aged five years next September.

In February 1819, she married John Edelen, and had an only daughter,

Elizabeth Eleanor Jane Edelen. Her last will and testament, dated August 18, 1865, was probated in Charles County on December 31, following. She named no heirs of her body, but bequeathed a legacy to her friend and relative Fannie H. Johnson and Betty Stone, the daughter of Thomas D. Stone.

GEORGE DENT⁵

1773-1833

George Dent was one of the younger children of Captain George Dent and Eleanor Hawkins his wife, and was born about 1773 at the Pope's Creek plantation of his parents. As a youngster he undoubtedly remembered the burning of his father's home by the British in 1781. It was on his father's plantation that he later constructed his home which became known as "Prospect Hill" overlooking the Potomac. The house somewhat modified is now known as "Keechland", one of the show places of Charles County.

He married Elizabeth, the eldest daughter of Charles Yates 3d, a descendant of an early planter to Maryland. Charles Yates died testate in Charles County, and by his last will and testament, probated March 1, 1794, he named six minor children among whom was Elizabeth. At the final settlement of the estate on December 31, 1807, his daughter, Elizabeth, was Mrs. Elizabeth Dent, when she received her filial portion of the estate or \$392.00.

Children of George and Elizabeth (Yates) Dent

1. Eleanor Jane Dent, died spinster June 11, 1838.
2. Ann Mary Dent, died spinster Nov. 2, 1836.
3. Mary Eleanor Dent married Sept. 4, 1832, at Prospect Hill, John Philip Stewart [Stuart], son of Gen. Philip Stuart and Mary Fell Bayne his wife; later of Fayette Co., Tex.
4. Elizabeth Yates Dent.
5. George Dent, born Feb. 29, 1808, married Sophia Ann Ashton. *q.v.*
6. Charles Marshall Patrick Henry Dent, born 1812, *d.s.p.*

The National Intelligencer of April 4, 1833, stated that "George Dent died 27 March 1833, aged 60, late of Prospect Hill, Charles County".

His last will and testament, dated November 20, 1832, was probated in Charles County, on April 25, 1833.

To children Eleanor Jane Dent, Ann Mary Dent, Mary Eleanor Stewart, Elizabeth Yates Dent, George Dent and Charles M. P. H. Dent negro slaves.

Residuary estate to be divided equally among all children.

Executor—son Charles, but in event that his son died before 21 years of age or was incapable of executorship, then his kinsman, George Dent Parnham.

His spinster daughter, Elizabeth Y. Dent, died testate in 1848, and bequeathed silver plate to her nephew, George Dent of George, and other personalty to her sister, Mary E. Stuart and brother George Dent, but certain articles were bequeathed to her sister only during the lifetime of her husband, John P. Stuart.

CAPTAIN GEORGE DENT⁵

1758-1813

George Dent, son of John and Sarah (Marshall) Dent, was born about 1758 at "Windsor Castle", the fanciful English name given to "Clarke's Inheritance" on the Mattawoman in Charles County. After a distinguished career in Maryland where he amply carried on the honours of the house of Dent in public service and gracious living, he sought more virgin fields in the then rapidly growing State of Georgia and there established an aristocratic line unequalled in that Southern State.

At the close of the Revolution he married a maiden of the neighbourhood, Anne Magruder Truman, daughter of James and Elizabeth-Gordon Truman. The progenitor of the Truman family, Henry, arrived in Maryland in the late sixteen hundreds and allied himself with the best of Maryland gentry houses. Members of his family had preceded him and while the relationship is not known, they saw that he became associated with the right set in Maryland. James Truman, the father of Mrs. Dent, served with honour in the Revolutionary Army of Maryland.

The family was members of the Episcopal Church and several of their children are recorded in the register of St. John's Parish of Piscataway.

Children of George and Anne (Truman) Dent

1. John Herbert Dent, born Feb. 15, 1782, married Elizabeth Anne Horry. *q.v.*
2. Sarah Marshall Dent, born 1783, married Edward Briscoe and _____ Fendall.
3. Elizabeth Truman Dent, born 1786, died 1789.
4. Maria Dent, born 1788, married John Neilson.
5. James Truman Dent, born Oct. 25, 1790, married Catherine Anne Cooper. *q.v.*
6. George Columbus Dent, born Feb. 23, 1793.
7. Mary Ann Dent, died young.
8. Dennis Dent, born May 22, 1796, married Martha Beall. *q.v.*

The maternal grandfather, James Truman, made a deed of gift to his two grandchildren, John Herbert Dent and Sarah Marshall Dent, on March 19, 1784, of negroes for the love and natural affections which he

held for the children of his daughter. He died the same day as his granddaughter, Elizabeth Truman, and both were buried in one grave in the old burying ground at "Clarke's Inheritance". The headstone still standing reads "Together are interred the remains of James Truman and his granddaughter Elizabeth T. Dent. He died December 22, 1789, aged 47 years. She departed December 22, 1789, in third year".

The maternal grandmother, Elizabeth Gordon wrote her last will and testament on April 6, 1796, and bequeathed her slaves to her Dent grandchildren then extant, namely, Sarah Marshall Dent, Maria Dent, John Herbert Dent, James Truman Dent, George Columbus Dent and Dennis Dent. The instrument was not probated in Prince Georges County until April 7, 1807.

At the outbreak of the Revolution, George Dent served as First Lieutenant of the Third Battalion of the Flying Camp. He was recommended on February 26, 1776, by the Committee of Observation of Charles County, with his father Brigadier General John Dent, sitting as chairman, and received confirmation of his commission on March 7, 1776. He saw active service in the early campaign around New York, where the Maryland troops sustained the heaviest casualties and many were taken prisoners. After the disbandment of the Flying Camp near Philadelphia in December 1776, he returned to his home in Charles County and was later commissioned a First Lieutenant in the local militia serving under his kinsman, Captain Thomas Hanson Marshall. In March 1778, he subscribed to the Oath of Allegiance and Fidelity before his father, who was then one of the magistrates of the county. On May 9, 1778, he was promoted to Captain and assigned to the 26th Battalion.

From 1782 to 1790 he served in the Maryland State Legislature as a delegate from Charles County, being speaker pro-tempore in 1788 and speaker in 1789. The next year he was unanimously elected speaker. In 1791 he was elected to the State Senate and served as president of the latter in 1792, in which year he resigned his seat to be a candidate for a seat in the United States House of Representatives.

He entered the House of Representatives on March 4, 1793, during Washington's administration and served until March 3, 1801. At one time he served as speaker pro-tempore. On January 7, 1801, the *National Intelligencer* printed the following "We are desired to inform the citizens of Maryland that George Dent declines a re-election as member of the House of Representatives of the United States". It was the time of the Jefferson-Burr presidential contest and George Dent worked jealously for the election of Jefferson. On April 4, 1801, Jefferson nominated him for the

insignificant post of Marshal of the District of Columbia. He held it for a brief period only. He expected a more lucrative appointment in keeping with his ability and social position. He had actually expected to be appointed the Treasurer of the United States, and in the letters and correspondence of Thomas Jefferson is a letter dated September 14, 1801, from George Dent to Albert Gallatin, Secretary of the Treasury soliciting that office. With discuss he liquidated his Maryland holdings and about 1802 he joined his brother in the State of Georgia. He established his seat on an extensive plantation about two miles from the town of Augusta, but which is now within the metropolitan district of Augusta.

On June 14, 1802, before removal to Georgia, George Dent and his wife Anne Magruder Dent, sold "Clarke's Inheritance", of 300 acres, and "Dent's Level", of 280 acres to Dr. Thomas Marshall, both plantations having been deeded to George Dent by his father in February 1785. Both plantations lay on the north side of Mattawoman Swamp.

On August 18, 1806, Elizabeth Gordon Truman, widow of James Truman, late of Prince Georges County, Maryland, Ann Magruder Dent, daughter of the said James Truman, and George Dent in right of his wife, the said Ann Magruder Dent, all of Columbia County, Georgia, gave power of attorney to Captain James Somerville, of Prince Georges, to convey to John Moran the plantation "Buttenton", of about 243 acres, lying partly in Charles and partly in Prince Georges. The northern portion was the property of the late James Truman, deceased, and had been surveyed on January 27, 1736, for Henry Truman.

He was thrown from his horse while riding one morning, the injuries of which caused his death on December 2, 1813. He was buried on his plantation near Augusta. His last will and testament was probated at Columbia County, Georgia. He provided for his wife, Anne M. Dent, and sons James T. Dent, George Columbus Dent and Dennis Dent. The latter was not to enjoy his inheritance until "twenty-one years of age". To his daughter, Sarah M. Fendall, he left "twenty-five cents for reasons she will duly appreciate". Other heirs were his brother, Thomas M. Dent, and Daphne Hornsby of no stated relationship.

His son, George Columbus Dent, was killed in a tragic duel which took place in the early hours of the morning at Hamburg, across the Savannah River, in South Carolina. It was this duel and his death which inspired Augusta Evans to draw her material for her well-known romantic novel *St. Elmo* of a generation ago. His last will and testament was probated in Columbia County, Georgia on May 1, 1815, naming his brother, James T. Dent, and cousin, John Dent.

CAPTAIN THOMAS MARSHALL DENT⁵

1761 - 1823

Thomas Marshall Dent, son of General John Dent and Sarah Marshall his wife, was born at "Clarke's Inheritance" on October 22, 1761, according to the register of St. John's Parish at Piscataway. He married Anne, the only daughter of Alexander Howard Magruder and Jane his wife. The birth of two children are registered in St. John's Parish.

Children of Thomas and Anne (Magruder) Dent

1. John Dent, born Feb. 15, 1792, married Sarah McIntosh. *q.v.*
2. Mary Anne Dent, born Mar. 13, 1793, died Sept. 1855, in Macon, Miss., married 1813 James Longstreet who died in 1830, son of William and Hannah (FitzRandolph) Longstreet; Mary Anne Dent Longstreet became the mother of General James Longstreet, C.S.A.
3. Sarah Marshall Dent, married William Blackwell.
4. Jane Dent married ——— Williams.

On June 18, 1794, Thomas Marshall Dent was commissioned a Captain of the 43d Regiment of Maryland Militia. Better known as Marshall Dent he removed to Georgia where his brothers had settled, and he died at Augusta during August 1823.

GEORGE DENT⁵

1755 - 181—

George Dent, the first surviving son of Peter Dent by his wife, Mary Eleanor, was born about 1755 at "Whitehaven", then in Charles County. At the census of 1775 for that county taken with the objective of the available men for military service, he was the only son of Peter Dent, so listed, being a resident of Pomonkey Hundred. During the Revolution he settled in Frederick County and for a time lived in the home of James Johnson.

On December 13, 1781, Thomas Johnson, of Frederick Town, wrote to Governor Thomas Simms Lee as follows:

"I have understood that the Office of Surveyor of this County is vacant. I am not very fond of recommending to office but I believe Mr. George Dent who has lived a good while with my brother James would fill it with ability and integrity".

In 1782 and 1783 various sums ordered by the Treasurer were paid to George Dent, of Frederick County, presumably for his services as Surveyor of the County. On December 20, 1783, Samuel Duvall was appointed the Surveyor of the County in room of George Dent who had resigned.

In 1784 he assisted the widow of Joseph Cromwell, a local merchant, in the administration of her deceased husband's estate. It was not so very long thereafter that the widow removed her mourning and donned a bridal gown, with George Dent as the next husband. They were married on April 28, 1785, in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Frederick in the presence of Samuel Duvall and his wife Priscilla, William Ritchie and his wife Frances, Jacob Jung and his wife Eleanor, and Peter Mantz.

His bride was born Susannah Dawson, the daughter of John and Susanna Dawson, a family originally of Prince Georges County. After the marriage he and his wife pushed farther west to the frontier of Maryland and settled near the present town of Cumberland in Alleghany County. If it has not been demolished in recent years, the log house which he first bought for his family still stands in Cumberland. In 1806 as the surveyor of the town he laid out Cumberland into lots.

He alienated all of his landed interests in Charles County and invested heavily in realty in Western Maryland. In 1785 he and John Dawson & Co. purchased a large quantity of merchandise from Abraham Faw, of Frederick County, to the value of £3253/5/6. As security he mortgaged personal property including three negroes, five feather beds, several teams including horses and wagons, and also three lots in Cumberland. It was the time of great economic depression as an aftermath of the Revolutionary War and he had invested too heavily in western lands with no immediate returns with the results that he became an insolvent debtor in 1788. Daniel Stull was appointed trustee by the court and he assigned all assets except the wearing apparel of his family. Among his assets were 2000 acres on the Licking River in Ohio. He was making land transactions in 1810, but after that year he apparently died intestate. No will or administration of his estate is on record in Alleghany County.

The names of the following children are from family records:

1. Frederick Dent, born Oct. 6, 1786, married Ellen Bray Wrenshall.
q.v.
2. Lewis Dent, later of Muskingum Co., Ohio; in 1814 he sold lots in Cumberland, said to have been killed at the Alamo.
3. Frances Dent married ——— Gwinn.
4. Joseph Cromwell Dent.
5. Ellen Dent married ——— Woods.
6. Priscilla Dent married ——— Adair.

THEODORE DENT⁵

1760-1815

Theodore Dent, son of Peter and Anne Dent, was born about 1760 at "Whitehaven", at that time in Charles County, which he eventually in-

herited at the death of his parents. The responsibilities of settling his father's estate fell on him as well as the insolvent estate of his brother, Thomas, by which he sustained personal losses.

After October 1792, he married Eleanor Sheid, a maiden of Durham Parish, Charles County, of distinguished lineage, but one who brought him but a small dowry. She was a niece to Captain Joseph Marbury, of the Maryland Line during the Revolution and an original member of the Society of the Cincinnati. He afterwards earned the title of Major and died in Charles County unmarried. She and her brother, Francis Herd Sheid, were apparently left orphans at an early age and were raised by their maternal grandparents, William and Martha Marbury, of Durham Parish. Her father ——— Sheid had apparently settled in Maryland only recently as the records reveal virtually no information about him.

The progenitor of the Marbury family came early to Maryland and became a planter of some substance around Piscataway and Mattawoman where Prince Georges and Charles Counties met. He had at least two wives, and perhaps a third, but the first was a Roman Catholic maiden, the granddaughter of Thomas Green, Esq., Second Governor of Maryland and an Adventurer on the Ark and the Dove in 1633. Although there was an alliance with a strict Catholic house, all of his children were raised in the Established Church. Some distinguished themselves in the legal profession and were raised to judgeships of the higher courts.

William Marbury, the grandfather of Mrs. Eleanor Dent, lived quietly in Pomonkey Hundred, of Durham Parish, where he died testate in Charles County during 1791. He was a son of Francis Marbury, born September 14, 1714, according to the register of St. John's Piscataway Parish, who married Frances Herd. Their son, William, was born on July 2, 1715. William Marbury, the latter failed to name all of his children in his last will and testament of 1791, but did provide for his widow, Martha, with several slaves and all of his moveable goods, naming his son, Major Joseph Marbury, as executor. His widow lived but a short time thereafter and died testate the next year. She overlooked her daughter, Martha Sheid, in her bequests, but she bequeathed her slave Milly to her granddaughter, Eleanor Sheid, and her grandson, Francis Sheid, was to inherit a slave at the death or marriage of his then maiden aunt, Elizabeth Marbury.

Martha Sheid, the mother-in-law of Theodore Dent, as a widow of some maturity married secondly Benjamin Cawood, a widower of Charles County, but before her marriage with the consent of her betrothed, she placed her personal estate which consisted of a slave Peter, livestock, two books of Divinity and household articles in trust with her brother, Joseph

Marbury. The date of the pre-nuptial agreement was July 3, 1798, and she was at liberty to dispose of her estate in trust as she saw fit, but the agreement was not to effect her right of dower in the personal and real estate of her betrothed husband. He died in 1816, and on September 26, of that year, she was granted letters of administration.

Her son, Francis Herd Sheid, was of age in 1795, acquired quite a landed estate through his own efforts, married into the Franklin family of Charles County. One night in a game of chance with William McConchie he lost \$800.00. He died testate in Charles County in 1810, naming his two children—Francis James Sheid and Ann Gray Sheid, and made his nephew, Peter Dent, the contingent heir in the event that his children died young. Theodore Dent, his brother-in-law, was named as the executor. His mother, Martha Cawood, assumed the guardianship of the children and was living as late as 1828.

Three children were born to Theodore Dent and his wife, Eleanor Sheid.

1. Peter Dent, born Oct. 7, 1798, married Mary Brown Rogerson. *q.v.*
2. William Marbury Dent married Henrietta H. ———.
3. Martha Ann Dent married Francis L. Rogerson.

Theodore Dent pursued the life of a tobacco planter on his portion of "Whitehaven" and was the tobacco inspector for his district for several years. He was certainly a planter of some financial standing in the community, as he often became the bondsman for his friends, particularly Samuel Hanson Sr.

In 1788 and 1789 before his marriage he received warrants for the resurvey on his portion of "Whitehaven" which lay partly in Charles County and partly in Prince Georges. In June 1805, his brother, Walter Dent, of Alleghany County, granted him all his rights and interest in "Whitehaven" as heir of their brother, Thomas Dent.

On April 5, 1791, Colonel William Dent, Richard Dent and Theodore Dent received a certificate to resurvey "Whitehaven" with 275 acres of vacant land added which was given the name of "Independency".

On August 21, 1792, Richard Dent, of Prince Georges County, conveyed to Theodore Dent a 32-acre portion of "Independency" on the west side of the Mattawoman, and on the same day Theodore Dent conveyed to Richard Dent a 236-acre portion.

He was the administrator of his brother, Thomas Dent, in 1800, and inasmuch as the personal estate was insufficient to cover the outstanding indebtedness, he petitioned the court to sell the realty.

He died intestate. On September 2, 1815, his widow, Eleanor Dent,

was granted letters of administration. The personal estate manifested an appraisement of some affluence for that day.

Some time after his death and presumably the death of their mother, the children of Theodore alienated the ancestral plantation "Whitehaven" which they then called "Independency". In 1834 Francis L. Rogerson and Martha Anne his wife, of Charles County, deeded to Walter W. Hanson Jr., their undivided third in "Independency", "Cow Penns" and "Snap", containing in all 237 acres which was formally the property of Theodore Dent father to Martha Anne Rogerson. Two years later Peter Dent and Mary his wife and William M. Dent and Henrietta H. his wife, conveyed their interest in the same tracts to Walter W. Hanson Jr.

WILLIAM DENT⁵

17— 18—

William Dent, son of Captain William Dent and Verlinda Beall his wife, was born in old Frederick County, but spent some of his youth in Guilford County, North Carolina. Like his father he was actively engaged in the War of the Revolution, and was a member of Colonel Nicholas Long's Battalion of Minute Men and Volunteers from the District of Halifax, Carolina, which marched to Norfolk and was later stationed at Wilmington and Moore's Creek.

He married apparently while he was domiciled in Guilford County, inasmuch as the 1790 census for that district reported him the head of a family with five males under the age of 16 years and three females. He accompanied his father and brothers to Hancock County, Georgia, and according to the 1795 tax list he possessed no land but was taxed for one slave.

PETER DENT⁵

17— 1822

Peter Dent, son of Captain William Dent and Verlinda Beall his wife, was born in old Frederick County, Maryland, and accompanied his parents to Guilford County, North Carolina, shortly before the Revolutionary War. After the war he removed to Hancock County, Georgia, with his parents, and there according to the 1795 tax list he possessed eight slaves, but apparently lived on his father's plantation, as he was not taxed for land.

His marriage probably occurred after his settling in Georgia, and at the 1802 tax list he had acquired 287½ acres of land on the Shoulderbone and was the master of nine slaves.

He died testate in Hancock County, his will being dated September 25,

1821, and probated on December 2, 1822. He named his wife, Sarah, and the following daughters—Sarah Dent, Polly Finch, Nancy Yarnold, and Eleanor Wilkinson. He appointed his wife and Richard Baugh the executors.

His widow, Sarah Dent, was living in Hancock County in 1827, when she was entitled to the land lottery of that year and drew a specified acreage of former Indian land in Muscogee County.

GEORGE WASHINGTON DENT⁵

1776 182—

George Washington Dent, son of Captain Thomas Dent and Elizabeth Edelen his wife, was born in July 1776, and certainly was given the name of the leading patriot of the hour. As the then flourishing river-port of Alexandria, Virginia, offered urban opportunities, a number of Southern Marylanders made business connections there—some permanent others not so permanently. In 1792 George Washington Dent was domiciled there when John Hawkins deeded him a negro which had been purchased of William Hunter Jr., of that town.

Prior to 1802 he married Matilda, the daughter of John Bayne, another alliance with that Southern Maryland family which played a very conspicuous role in the early days of Maryland. In that year he and his wife figured in the law suit of Richard Marshall and Margaret his wife vs Joseph Noble Bayne and other heirs of John Bayne, deceased.

His wife was destined to an early grave in Maryland, and by December 4, 1804, she was deceased leaving two young children—John Walter Stodert Dent and Eleanor Matilda Bayne Dent. Her uncle, Joseph Noble Bayne, wrote his will on that date and made provisions for the minor children of his deceased niece, Matilda Dent.

It was those days when tales of the rich and undeveloped lands of the Lower South, which was bringing wealth within a few years in cotton, were reaching the ears of the Maryland tobacco planters and groups of kindred Southern Marylanders became imbued with the spirit of adventure. Georgia was the magic word of that epoch which extended from the Atlantic Coast to the eastern bank of the Mississippi, and the newly opened up Indian tribal lands could be had almost for the asking. So George Washington Dent after the loss of his wife turned his attentions southward where many of his compatriots had already gone.

Through his deceased wife he had inherited considerable legacies from the Bayne family and besides as the eldest son he became heir to all of his father's plantations. Before migrating South he disposed of most of his

land while other tracts were conveyed after his settlement permanently in Columbia County, Georgia.

On November 22, 1800, he was deeded by his brother, Lewis William Dent, the latter's one-third interest of 339 acres in a plantation on Mattawoman Swamp in Prince Georges County, according to the deed of their father's brother, Peter Dent, of Charles County, in 1770, and which had been devised "to our father by his father Peter Dent".

On March 15, 1806, Edward Edelen, as the executor of the estate of Joseph Noble Bayne, conveyed to George Washington Dent and Philip Steuart for the use of "their children" the plantations "Never Fear", of 18 acres and a lot in Piscataway.

Furthermore, he conveyed his interest in a tract of land patented by their father in 1764 or 125 acres in Frederick County, Virginia, but then in Berkeley County. Their minor brother, Patrick Dent, at that time was then under age and as the deed so stated was incapable of conveying. The land was the Whitehaven Plantation, and on May 25, 1808, being of Prince Georges County, George Washington Dent sold to Philip Steuart, of Charles County, all his interest in "Whitehaven" and "Addition to Whitehaven" as appeared by the deed of partition between Thomas Dent, his father, and his brothers, Walter Dent and Richard Dent. The land had been purchased by George Washington Dent from the trustees of his father's estate.

The will of Joseph Noble Bayne who died without issue in Prince Georges during 1804, bequeathed legacies to the children of his niece, Matilda Dent, but the legacies were to remain in the custody of his executors until the heirs arrived at the age of 21. To his friend and nephew, Colonel Philip Stuart, he willed the china punch bowl which had been bought at the sale of George Washington's effects.

On March 15, 1806, Philip Steuart and Mary Fell his wife conveyed to him, George Washington Dent, all their interest which was vested in Mary Fell Steuart in "Leith" and "Pittsburg", lying in Prince Georges County or one-third of the property belonging to John Bayne. On March 25, 1806, for a consideration of \$6123.18, he purchased his father's landed estate described as "Whitehaven" and "Addition to Whitehaven" from Philip Steuart, of Charles County, and Robert A. Beall, of Prince Georges, according to the partition between the brothers Thomas Dent, Walter Dent and Richard Dent.

In the spring of 1806, he removed to Columbia County, Georgia. There he married Anne Hutchison, according to the Frederick Herald, of September 8, 1806—"On August 21, 1806, at Columbia Courthouse, Georgia,

George Dent married Miss Anne Hutcheson (sic), both parties being of Charles County, Maryland.

Two children were likewise born to this union.

1. Hutchison Dent married his cousin Anna Longstreet. *q.v.*
2. Mary Ann Dent married ——— Collier.

On April 8, 1809, he and his wife of Columbia County, Georgia, assigned to Theophilus Hargraves for a consideration of \$4000.00 their one-third interest in "Indian Town Land" in Charles County, Maryland, lying on the east side of Nanjemoy Creek which had descended from George Hutchison to his three daughters, namely, Maryanna who had married William D. Harrison, Jane Fowke who had married Theophilus Hargraves and Ann who had married the grantor, George Washington Dent. It was acknowledged before John Briscoe, Justice of the Peace, for Columbia County.

On August 11, 1811, he disposed of additional realty which had come to him and his wife, when he sold to Theophilus Hargraves "William and James" on Nanjemoy Creek originally granted to James Stoddert and William Hutchison. On September 11, same year, he sold to William E. Clagett, of Prince Georges, a lot in Piscataway Town which had descended to the heirs of John Bayne Jr., that is, Mary F. Stewart, J. H. Bayne and Matilda Dent, heretofore purchased by George Washington Dent from Philip Stewart and Mary F. Stewart and James F. Bayne except the portions already sold to Basil Bowling and John Tippet.

On December 13, 1817, he mortgaged realty of 240 acres lying in Columbia County, Georgia, to Lewis W. Dent, Henry Stonestreet and Lewis Stonestreet, and also eight negro slaves. On January 29, 1818, still a resident of Columbia County, he assigned to Henry Thompson, of Prince Georges, all his rights by curtesy upon his marriage to Matilda Bayne in two tracts of land in Prince Georges known as "White's Park" and "Nicked Him in the Deer Range and Meadow", containing 100 acres.

He died before 1827, when his unnamed orphans, of Columbia County, Georgia, shared in the land lottery of that year and drew former Indian land in Muscogee County.

His spinster daughter, Eleanor Matilda Dent, spent her latter years in Prince William County, Virginia, where she died testate. Her last will and testament, dated January 22, 1831, was probated on April 4, following. She bequeathed legacies of \$300.00 each to her sister, Mary Collier, and her brother, Hutchison Dent. Other heirs were her cousins Mary Frances Adeline Thornton the wife of Stuart G. Thornton the parents of

Caroline M. Thornton and Ellean Thornton, Charles Edwin Thornton and William Henry Thornton. Other cousins were Mary E. Thornton, Martha Stewart Thornton and Frances Haws Thornton.

LEWIS WILLIAM DENT⁵

1776-1819

Lewis William Dent, son of Captain Thomas Dent and Elizabeth Edelen his wife, was born in or about the year 1776 in Piscataway Hundred, Prince Georges County. He was aged two at the census of 1776 taken by his father.

Before 1800 he married Ann Brooke ———, but the license was not secured in Prince Georges County, but probably in Charles whose marriage licenses have been destroyed by fire.

Children of Lewis William and Ann Brooke Dent

1. George Fairfax Dent, born Mar. 17, 1800.
2. Lucinda Brooke Dent.
3. William Washington Dent.
4. Patrick Dent, predeceased his father without issue.
5. Elizabeth Margaret Dent.
6. Thomas Richard Dent.
7. Matilda E. Dent.
8. Mary Ann Dent married ——— Clements.

During the War of 1812 when the British were advancing on the National Capital and burning the Maryland plantation homes on their march, Lewis William Dent served as a sergeant in the company of his kinsman, Captain William Dent, of the 43d Regiment recruited in Charles County.

On November 22, 1800, of Prince Georges County, he made an exchange with his brother, George Washington Dent, by which he received a one-third portion of the plantation on Mattawoman Swamp in accordance with the deed from Peter Dent their father's brother to their father, Thomas Dent, in 1770, and which had been devised by Peter Dent father of their father, Thomas, containing 339 acres, for a tract of land once in Frederick County, Virginia, but then in Berkeley County, per patent to their father, Thomas, on May 11, 1764 for 428 acres, and another adjoining tract in the same county as patented by their father for 125 acres in 1765. It is also noted that the plantation of their father on Mattawoman had been bought by George Washington Dent at the trustee sale of their father's estate for \$6120 in 1803.

He drew up his last will and testament on November 30, 1817, it being

probated in Prince Georges County on April 13, 1819, by George Boswell, Horatio Boswell, Kenelm Boswell and George Edelen.

To his wife Ann B. Dent he devised all property not otherwise bequeathed to his children.

To son George F. Dent at 21 all land in Frederick Co., Va., which the testator inherited at the death of his father.

To daughter Lucinda B. Dent at 16 the testator's part of the negro wench Catherine left by "my mother to my two sons William W. Dent and Patrick Dent, the half of which I inherited by death of son Patrick, also one-half dozen silver spoons marked L.B.D.

Residuary estate to sons and daughters namely, Elizabeth M. Dent, Thomas R. Dent, Margaret Dent, Matilda E. Dent and William W. Dent.

Executrix—wife Ann B. Dent.

His widow lived until 1832, although her will was made on May 6, 1828, in the presence of Thomas Dorsey Clagett, Robert Brawner and Thomas Willett.

To son George Fairfax Dent a legacy of \$20.00.

To her daughter Elizabeth Margaret Dent a legacy of \$5.00.

To son Thomas Richard Dent the cancellation of his note.

To daughters Mary Ann Dent and Lucinda Brooke Dent the dwelling-plantation in fee, and personal property part of which had been inherited by the will of Elizabeth Dent.

To son William Washington Dent at age of 21 that which was due from the estate of Elizabeth Dent and the negro left to the testatrix's two sons, Patrick and William Washington.

Executor—son George Fairfax Dent.

On August 20, 1832, George Fairfax Dent renounced his rights as executor in favour of his brother, Thomas R. Dent, and on July 18, 1833, Lucinda B. Dent and Thomas R. Dent renounced the administration in favour of their sister, Mary Ann Clements.

His son, Thomas R. Dent, styling himself of Prince Georges County, on August 8, 1833, conveyed to George S. Harris, of Charles County, and Samuel Sheriff, of Prince Georges County "Market Overton" of $31\frac{3}{4}$ acres, as conveyed to him the said Thomas R. Dent by Thomas D. Clagett. At the same time he conveyed to both of them another portion of "Market Overton" of 113 acres, as deeded to him by Alexander Matthews.

PATRICK DENT, M.D.⁵

17— 1813

Patrick Dent, son of Thomas and Elizabeth (Edelen) Dent, was born near Piscataway, Prince Georges County. On July 22, 1809, he secured license in Prince Georges County to marry Susannah Gerard Wood. The

inventory of his personal estate was taken in Charles County on April 14, 1813, with John T. Wood as the administrator. In his library were 29 bound medical books, 6 medical books in boards and 2 medical pamphlets, 5 old books, 1 almanack, 1 medicine trunk, 1 set of Surgical instruments, 2 marble mortars and pestles. There were also two slaves.

RICHARD DENT⁵

1778-1841

Richard Dent, son of Walter Dent and his wife Elizabeth, was born about 1778 at Whitehaven, Charles County, Maryland. He removed first to Columbia County, Georgia, where according to license he married Ann Thomas on May 15, 1799, the daughter of James Thomas.

On August 26, 1806, James Thomas Sr., of Oglethorpe County, Georgia, deeded to Stephen Thomas and James Thomas Jr. in trust for the use of Nancy and Richard Dent six slaves and 100 acres of land that "Richard Dent now lives on and which had once been in the possession of William Cowan". By his last will and testament dated January 1, 1816, he bequeathed his daughter, Nancy Dent, \$1700.00 in trust for the use of her unnamed children. By a codicil dated June 3, 1826, he willed his daughter, Nancy Dent, two plantations of 100 acres each on Cloud Creek.

Richard Dent settled on the land given him and his wife by the latter's father in Oglethorpe County, and at the 1820 census he was domiciled in that county with five males and six females and also 14 negro slaves.

The following children with their dates of birth were taken from family records.

1. Elizabeth Dent, born about 1800, married ——— Kimbrough.
2. George Fairfax Dent, born Nov. 21, 1803, married Frances E. Thomas. *q.v.*
3. Mildred Dent, born about 1805.
4. Mary Frances Dent, born about 1807.
5. William Smallwood Dent, born Dec. 21, 1809, married Martha Stringfellow and Mary Cooper Witherspoon. *q.v.*
6. Camilla Jett Dent, born about 1815, married George Mason.
7. James Mason Dent, born about 1817, married the widow of his brother Theodore.
8. Theodore Dent, born about 1820, married Virginia Cannon.
9. Ann Cora Dent, born Oct. 29, 1824.

Richard Dent enlisted as a private on February 3, 1814, under Captain Henry Cox for service in the War of 1812 and is said to have been wounded at the battle of Chalibre Swamp. He later served as Captain of an artillery battery during the Seminole War of 1817-1818. He ultimately settled in Tuscaloosa County, Alabama, where he died on July 4, 1841.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM DENT OF FRIENDSHIP⁶
1786-1836

William Dent, son and heir of Captain George Dent and his first wife, was born at "Friendship", Durham Hundred, about 1786. Before the year 1802 he married Janet Knox, now known to be the daughter of John Knox, late of Fauquier County, who was actually the daughter of his father's second wife or his father's step-daughter. The estate of John Knox was distributed in Fauquier County in May 1802, when "Mrs. Jannett Dent's share of the personal estate was £182/10/- and "Jannett Dent Wife of William Dent" received lot no. 1 of the realty of 279 acres.

After his marriage he apparently resided on "Friendship", the ancestral estate in Charles County, while his father settled on his wife's estate in Fauquier County.

On October 24, 1803, he and Janet his wife conveyed to George Kemper, of Fauquier County, a tract on the Rappahannock binding on the widow's dower or lot no. 1 which fell to them in the division of the estate of John Knox.

During the War of 1812 he served as Captain of the 43d Maryland Regiment of Militia which was raised in Charles County.

In 1813 he sued Robert D. Knox and William Morris. He stated that he was the administrator on the estate of his father, George Dent, who was guardian to Robert D. Knox, then of Charles County. He furthermore stated that William Morris importuned Robert D. Knox to bring suit against him. Robert D. Knox in his suit stated that he had not received the balance of his inheritance due him in the hands of William Dent. Judgement was obtained against William Dent in March 1808. At the same time he filed a counter suit against Robert D. Knox and received judgement against Knox for £44/12/6. In the suit it was brought out that Robert D. Knox had married a step-daughter of William Morris.

On March 28, 1814, William Dent mortgaged "Friendship", of 900 acres, on the west side of Nanjemoy Creek to John Matthews in order to make payment to William Vincent and John Farguson. On June 14, 1815, William Dent again placed a small mortgage on his plantation with Philip Stuart. It was stated that the plantation lay on the west side of Nanjemoy Creek as laid out for Nicholas Gwyther in 1657 for 900 acres called "Friendship" and on which the said William Dent and George Robertson then resided. It was furthermore declared in the mortgage deed that the plantation had been possessed by William Dent, the grandfather of the present owner and after his death by Warren Dent, uncle to the

said William Dent, and after his death by George Dent, the father of the mortgagor. The lien was to cover a debt assigned by Thomas Clagett and his wife, Rebecca, to Horatio Clagett for the use of Samuel Chapman.

On February 2, 1816, William Dent and his wife Janet, of Charles County, conveyed to Joseph Gray Sr. and John F. Gray, of the same county, "Friendship" in Durham Parish consisting of 1052 acres as originally granted to Nicholas Gwyther.

On March 2, 1824, he and his wife, Janet S. Dent, of Charles County, made a deed to their sons George Dent, Robert Dent and William Dent as tenants in common on land lying on the Rappahannock River in Fauquier County known as "Summer Duck".* The name of the plantation was later given to a village in the southern portion of the county but now spelled Sumerduck.

*On Nov. 19, 1828, William Dent and George Dent made a deed of trust to Stanton Slaughter for the use of Elizabeth Chandler, all parties being of Virginia, the land which had been previously conveyed to them as joint tenants with Robert Dent, by William Dent Sr. and his wife, Janet S. Dent.

On February 21, 1829, a commission was issued by the court to William Thompson, William Dent Jr. and James S. Cropp, of Fauquier County, to take acknowledgement of Hosea Hickerson and his wife Janet and William Dent to a deed already executed or to be executed which conveyed to Uzziel Nalley, of Charles County, all the right of the said Josea Hickerson and Janet his wife and William Dent in a tract of land of 20 acres called "Brawner's Chance" in Durham Parish, Charles County. The deed of conveyance was signed by Josea Hickerson, Janet Hickerson and William Dent.

On August 20, 1834, of Fauquier County, he made a deed of gift to his daughter, Jane Dent, of one negro wench and her two children.

Styled Colonel William Dent, his estate was appraised in Fauquier County, Virginia, on November 15, 1836. A sale of the personalty brought a nominal amount, the principal purchasers were George Dent and Jane Dent.

The following children of William Dent and his wife are proved:

1. George Dent.

Died testate Fauquier Co. 1843, bequeathing entire estate to nephew William Massey Simms.

2. Robert Dent.

3. William Dent, removed to Rapides Parish, La.

4. Jane Townsend Dent married Horace C. Ransdale. License Feb. 23, 1842, Fauquier Co., Va.

5. John Knox Dent, Millright. Died testate Baltimore, Md., 1858; requested to be buried in Greenmount Cemetery by rites of the Episcopal Church and devised "Summer Duck" in Fauquier Co., Va., to his sister, Jane Townsend Ransdale, for life then to her children.

Captain William Dent was the senior branch of the House of Dent in Maryland, and when he alienated "Friendship", being the sixth generation to possess the plantation, the senior or head of the family thus left Maryland and settled on parental or inherited land in the State of Virginia. It left only younger branches in Maryland or those propagated by the eminent Colonel William Dent, of Whitehaven.

In May 1856, William Dent, of Rapides Parish, Louisiana, made his nephew, William Massey Simms, of Culpepper County, Virginia, his attorney to receive from the administrator of his father's estate his inheritance and at the same time to sell a tract acquired by him from his mother, Jeannette Dent. Accordingly, in December 1856, William Massey Simms as attorney for William Dent disposed of one-third interest in the estate of his father and mother, William and Janet S. Dent, namely the Summer Duck tract on the Rappahannock River.

GEORGE DENT⁶

1808-1885

George Dent, son of Captain George and Elizabeth (Yates) Dent, was born February 29, 1808, at Prospect Hill, Charles County, Maryland. He married Sophia Anne, born about 1817, daughter of Henry Ashton by his wife, Cecilia Key, of St. Mary's County. The license was obtained in the District of Columbia on October 21, 1833.

Children of George and Sophia (Ashton) Dent

1. Sophia Anne Dent, aged 16 in 1860, died unmarried.
2. Cecilia Elizabeth Dent, aged 14 in 1850, died unmarried.
3. Sarah Ashton Dent, aged 10 in 1850, died unmarried.
4. George Dent, born Dec. 17, 1843, married Rosalie Ashton and Laura Maddox. *q.v.*
5. Eleanor Hawkins Dent, aged 6 in 1850, died unmarried.
6. Mary Dent, aged 4 in 1850.
7. William Henry Dent, died unmarried.
8. William Ashton Dent, born Dec. 3, 1857, died 1901 unmarried.

According to the 1850 census, George Dent was living in the Allen's Fresh District of Charles County. His dwelling-plantation, now known as Keechland, is one of the show places of Maryland, owing to the restoration and care given by Mrs. Carlyle Turner, born May Posey, a native

daughter of Charles County whose late husband was a descendant of the Dent family. The pretentious dwelling was by all circumstances constructed by George Dent Sr., after the destruction by the British during the Revolution.

His wife died in 1860, after which he married his sister-in-law, Mary Dent Ashton, but then the widow of Joseph Noble Stuart and Johannis Greenfield Dent Storke. She died testate. Her last will and testament was made at Gaithersburg, Maryland, on February 8, 1880, and probated on March 2, following. She willed her daughter, Mary Jane Miles, all her estate in Charles County one-third in fee and two-thirds in trust for her son, Joseph Storke. George Dent died intestate on June 30, 1885.

CAPTAIN JOHN HERBERT DENT, U.S.N.⁶
1782-1823

John Herbert Dent, son of Captain George Dent and Anne Magruder Truman his wife, was born February 22, 1782, in Durham Parish, Charles County, Maryland. He removed to Columbia County, Georgia, with his father, and there he married on February 7, 1809, Elizabeth Anne Horry. She was born in 1789, the daughter of Jonah and Sarah (Burnett) Horry.

Children of Captain Dent and His Wife

1. Emma Horry Dent, born Apr. 7, 1810, died unmarried 1875.
2. Sarah Burnett Dent, born Nov. 28, 1812, Charleston, S. C., died Oct. 21, 1874, Mobile, Ala., married Apr. 12, 1832, Dr. Thomas Lining, born Feb. 10, 1799, died July 22, 1868, and had issue.
3. John Dent, born June 11, 1814, died young.
4. Jonah Horry Dent, later changed his name to John, born at Newport, R. I., June 11, 1814, married twice. *q.v.*
5. Lucretia Constantia Radcliffe Dent, born Sept. 19, 1816, Charleston, S. C., died July 5, 1891, Charleston, married about 1846, Charles Baring, born Exeter, England, Dec. 27, 1864, and had issue.
6. Elizabeth Anne Dent, born Apr. 21, 1819, Fenwick's Plantation, S. C., died Aug. 21, 1899, Charleston, S. C., married Feb. 5, 1840, Richard Roper, and had issue.
7. Katherine Anne Herbert Dent, born Jan. 6, 1821, Charleston, S. C., died Aug. 25, 1882, Washington, D. C., married Apr. 26, 1854, the Hon. Robert Barnwell Rhett, born Dec. 24, 1800, died Sept. 14, 1876, St. James Parish, La., Representative and Senator from S. C., Delegate to S. C. Secession Convention; had issue.
8. George Columbus Dent, born May 1, 1822, married Ophelia Troup. *q.v.*

On March 16, 1798, he entered the United State Navy as a midshipman under Truxton on the frigate "Constellation" and was on board when she

captured the French frigate "Insurgente" on February 1, 1799. He was appointed lieutenant on July 11, 1799, and was on the same ship when she took the French frigate "La Vengeance" on February 1, 1800. During the Tripolitan War he was in command of the schooners "Nautilus" and "Scourage" in Preble's squadron, and participated in the attack on the city of Tripoli in 1804. He was commissioned a master commander on September 5, 1804, and a captain December 29, 1811.

It was not until after his brilliant seamanship in the French and Tripolitan Wars that he seemed to have retired to his plantation in St. Bartholomew's Parish in South Carolina and resumed the life of a Southern planter. He died on his plantation on July 29, 1823. His widow survived until February 18, 1856.

GENERAL JAMES TRUMAN DENT⁶

1790-1869

James Truman Dent, son of Captain George Dent and Ann Magruder Truman his wife, was born about 1790 in Durnham Parish, Charles County. He followed his parents to Columbia County, Georgia, where he undoubtedly lived for a time. The family historian who styled him General supplied the following data, but failed to give his place of residence. He married Catherine Ann Cooper and he died on August 25, 1869, aged 79 years. Their children were: Eliza Virginia Dent, born September 26, 1818 and was called Eliza Curtis and died February 21, 1897, having married about 1837 Christopher C. Donoho and having issue by him; Mary Cooper Dent; Savannah Virginia Dent, born December 22, 1822 and died 1898 at Tusaloosa, Alabama, unmarried; and Eugene Truman Dent, M.D., born March 8, 1826.

GENERAL DENNIS DENT⁶

1796-1863

Dennis Dent, son of Captain George Dent and Ann Magruder Truman his wife, was born May 22, 1796, in Durham Parish, Charles County. He resided for a time in Columbia County, Georgia, with his parents, but later settled in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. He was styled General by his descendants.

While residing in Georgia he married Martha Tennyson Beall, a scion of the mighty Maryland Beall family of Scotch descent which had already intermarried with the house of Dent several times. Her branch had settled

in Georgia during the great boom of the early Federal period along with a number of other gentry families of Southern Maryland.

Children of John and Martha (Beall) Dent

1. John Herbert Dent, born Feb. 9, 1822. *q.v.*
2. Robert Kennon Dent, born Sept. 9, 1824, married Virginia Anne Mason. *q.v.*
3. Sarah Maria Dent, born Oct. 24, 1831, Tuscaloosa, Ala., married John J. Rawls, of Jackson, Ala., and had issue.
4. Benjamin Fontaine Dent, born Apr. 28, 1834.
5. Mary Dent, born June 18, 1839, married ——— McGaughey and Charles Jackson.
6. George Truman Dent, born Aug. 1, 1842, died unmarried June 2, 1864, at the battle of Cold Harbor, while fighting for the Confederacy, as a member of the Third Regiment of Alabama Infantry.

General Dent married secondly Fannie Shaw, but according to the family historian, no issue resulted. He died on August 17, 1863, in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and was buried two days later in Green County, same State.

JOHN DENT, M.D.⁶
1792 - 1839

John Marshall Dent, son of Captain Thomas Marshall Dent and Ann Magruder his wife, was born in Charles County about 1792 and traveled as a youngster to Georgia with his parents.

On July 4, 1816, as John Dent, of Augusta, Georgia, he deeded to Sarah Marshall Briscoe, as the administratrix of the estate of Dr. Edward Briscoe, late of Charles County, Maryland, deceased, in consequence of \$4000.00 all rights possessed by him in a tract of land on the Mattawoman granted on March 1, 1684, for 500 acres under the name of "Clarke's Purchase" and which afterwards was conveyed through sundry hands to the late John Dent, of Charles County, and by him left to the said John Dent. He also assigned a portion of "Clarke's Inheritance" adjoining on the west side of the main road leaving from Pomonkey Warehouse to Port Tobacco and "Moore's Chance", of 140 acres, conveyed by the executors of Henry Moore in 1789 to Thomas M. Dent, then of Charles County, and by him transferred to the said grantor, John Dent. At the foot of the deed it was written that John Dent, the grantor, was not responsible for the land held by Mr. Richard Tubman, of Augusta, Georgia, on the claim "of long continued and unopposed occupancy".

He married Sarah McIntosh, of Georgia.

Children of John and Sarah (McIntosh) Dent

1. Mary Ann Wallace Dent, born 1827.
2. Caroline Elizabeth Dent, born 1830, married James M. Savage.
3. Janet Blair Dent, born and died 1832.
4. John Marshall Dent, born July 16, 1834, married Maria Harper.
q.v.

He died either August or September 1839, at Augusta, Georgia. It is possible that he was the Dr. John Dent who served as a surgeon with the First Regiment of District of Columbia Militia during the War of 1812.

FREDERICK FAYETTE DENT⁶

1787-1873

Frederick Fayette Dent, son of George and Susannah (Dawson) Dent, was born October 8, 1787, at Cumberland, Maryland, or October 6, 1786, as it is sometimes stated. After leaving the parental dwelling, he lived for a time at Pittsburgh, from which place after 1816 he sailed down the Ohio River with a young family and ultimately settled in St. Louis County, Missouri. To his estate he gave the name of "Whitehaven" after the ancestral plantation of his paternal grandfather in Southern Maryland. On December 22, 1814, presumably in Pennsylvania, he married Ellen Bray Wrenshall.

Children of Frederick and Ellen (Wrenshall) Dent

1. John Cromwell Dent, born May 22, 1816, Pittsburgh, died Carthage, Mo., 1889, married Ellen Dean and Anna Amanda Shurlds, and left issue.
2. George Wrenshall Dent, born Jan. 30, 1819, at St. Louis, Mo., died 1898/9, Berkeley, Calif., married Oct. 14, 1841, Mary Isabella Shurlds, and left issue.
3. Frederick Tracy Dent, born Dec. 17, 1820, died 1892/3, Denver, Colo., Brig. Gen. USA, married Helen Louis Lynd, and left issue.
4. Lewis Dent, born Mar. 3, 1823, at St. Louis, died Mar. 22, 1874, Washington, D. C., married Annie Elizabeth Baine, born Aug. 8, 1839, and left issue.
5. Julia Boggs Dent, born Jan. 26, 1826, died Dec. 14, 1902, Washington, D. C., married Aug. 22, 1848, Capt. Ulysses Simpson Grant, later General of the Army and President of the United States; left issue.
6. Ellen Wrenshall Dent, born June 28, 1828, died Dec. 16, 1904, Washington, D. C., married Major Alexander Sharp, USA, and left issue.
7. Mary Dent, died young.
8. Emily Marbury Dent, born June 6, 1836, died Washington, D. C., married Feb. 14, 1861, James Finnie Casey, and left issue.

During the presidency of his son-in-law, Colonel Dent, as he was styled, spent more time at the Executive Mansion than at his Missouri plantation, and at the Executive Mansion he died on December 15, 1873.

The following abstract appeared in the *Washington Star* of December 16, 1873:*

"Mr. Frederick Dent, father of Mrs. President Grant, who has been in feeble health for some time past, died at the White House last evening. In the morning Mr. Dent was as well as usual, but during the day he complained of being unwell and died at 11:40. (Dec. 15.)

Mr. Dent was born near Frederick, Md., Oct. 6, 1786, and was therefore in his 88 year. In 1812 he emigrated to St. Louis and entered into business, where he remained until 1865, when he retired and has lived with Mrs. Grant ever since.

The Dent family have now in their possession the patents for grants of land along the Maryland shore of the Potomac, from quite a distance down the river to the mouth of the Eastern branch. Strange to say, the old homestead of the Dent family of England is called Giesboro, and this may account for the name of the point near Washington, which was included in the land granted the ancestors of the late Mr. Frederick Dent. His country place was near St. Louis. His wife was a Miss Wrenshall of Pittsburgh.

An uncle of Mr. Dent was a member of Congress from Maryland, and gave the casting vote when the election of Jefferson was carried into the House."

The funeral services were held in the Blue Room at the Executive Mansion and the interment was in St. Louis.

*Discrepancies occurred in this obituary. If he removed to St. Louis in 1812, he certainly returned to Pittsburg where he was living in 1816. It was a distant kinsman, not uncle, who cast the vote for Thomas Jefferson. Of interest when Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant became a member of the DAR, she gave the incorrect family name of her maternal grandmother.

PETER DENT⁶

1798-18—

Peter Dent, son of Theodore Dent and Eleanor his wife, was born October 7, 1798, in Pomonkey Hundred, Charles County. About 1828, he married Mary Brown Rogerson, daughter of Thomas and Anstis (Olney) Rogerson.

Children of Peter and Mary (Rogerson) Dent

1. Theodore Dent, born Feb. 12, 1829, married Elizabeth Catherine Dement. *q.v.*
2. Mary Anstis Dent married Peter Everett and Marcus Luckett.
3. Thomas Dent.

4. Augustus Sheid Dent married Rosina V. Conington and Annie R. Sibley. *q.v.*
5. Simon Magruder Dent, born circa 1841, married Florence Parker and secondly Laura Virginia Gwynn. *q.v.*

Thomas Rogerson, the father of Mrs. Dent, was born about 1759 in England and came to America with his father, George Rogerson, who settled in Providence, Rhode Island. About 1785, Thomas removed to Alexandria, Virginia, where he was engaged in business until 1804 at which time he settled in Port Tobacco, Charles County. He married first in Rhode Island Anstis Olney, who became the mother of Mrs. Peter Dent. His second wife was a Widow Taney of Charles County by whom he had a son, Francis Louis Rogerson. The latter married Martha Ann, daughter of Theodore and Eleanor (Sheid) Dent. From 1818 to 1830 Thomas Rogerson served in the Maryland State Legislature as a delegate from Charles County. He died in 1834, aged 75 at Whitehaven, the residence of his son-in-law.

At the 1850 census his widow, Mary B. Dent, aged 44 years, was the head of a family in the Middletown District of Charles County, with the following comprising her immediate household: Theodore, aged 21; Thomas, aged 18; Shade, aged 15; and Simon aged 10.

HUTCHISON DENT⁶

1809-1870

Hutchison Dent, son of George and Anne (Hutchison) Dent, was born May 21, 1809, in Columbia County, Georgia. About 1833 at Augusta, Georgia, he married his cousin, Anna Longstreet, born about 1836, the daughter of James and Mary (Dent) Longstreet. They lived for a time in Trinity, Morgan County, Alabama, but later settled near Macon in Noxubee County, Mississippi. According to the family historian his wife died in 1839 and he survived until 1870.

Children of Hutchison and Anna (Longstreet) Dent

1. Mary Ann Dent, born Mar. 7, 1834, died Feb. 22, 1883, married first 1885 Dewitt Kinble, M.D., and secondly 1865 Henry Augustin Minor, M.D., and had issue. Their daughter, Anna Dent Minor married Albert Tatum Dent. *q.v.*
2. George Dent, died in infancy.

GEORGE FAIRFAX DENT⁶

1803-1873

George Fairfax Dent was born November 21, 1803, in Oglethorpe County, Georgia, the son of Richard Dent and Ann Thomas his wife.

About 1836 he married his cousin, Frances E. Thomas, born about 1812, a daughter of Stevens Thomas and Elizabeth Cary his wife. He died on May 11, 1873, and his widow on December 6, 1877, in Athens, Georgia.

Children of George and Frances (Thomas) Dent

1. Eliza Cary Dent, born 1837 Athens, Ga., died 1921, married Lucian Dawson and Barnard E. Bee, and left issue.
2. Stevens [Stephen] Thomas Dent, born Jan. 10, 1840, married his cousin Kate, daughter of William Smallwood and Martha (Stringfellow) Dent, and left issue; served in Co. H, Cobbs' Legion of Ga., C. S. A.
3. Alexander Thomas Dent, born Jan. 13, 1842, married Louisa Leeke.
4. John George Dent, born Sept. 14, 1851.
5. [Malcolm Dent].

WILLIAM SMALLWOOD DENT⁶

1809-1877

William Smallwood Dent, the son of Richard and Ann (Thomas) Dent, was born December 21, 1809, in Oglethorpe County, Georgia. He married first Martha Stringfellow, of Pickens County, Alabama.

Children of William and Martha (Stringfellow) Dent

1. Kate Dent married her cousin Stevens Thomas Dent, son of George Fairfax and Frances (Thomas) Dent.
2. Frances Dent, born July 6, 1849, died July 20, 1909, married C. N. Boyce [Boyle] and Louis Edward Zepernick, and had issue by both marriages.

After the death of his first wife at an early age, he married secondly Mary Cooper Witherspoon, born October 29, 1830, in Hale County, Alabama.

Children of William and Mary (Witherspoon) Dent

3. Emmet Cooper Dent, born Oct. 11, 1857, married Anna Lane Scott.
4. Dayton Witherspoon Dent, born Mar. 28, 1859, married twice.
5. Pinkney Alexander Dent, born June 11, 1861, died 1866.
6. Albert Tatum Dent, born Mar. 25, 1863, married Anna Minor. *q.v.*
7. Quintall [Quntilla] Dent, born Feb. 8, 1865.
8. William Earle Dent, born Nov. 26, 1867, died May 14, 1924, unmarried.
9. Velma Dent, born Aug. 17, 1869, died unmarried June 12, 1929.
10. Leon Frierson Dent, born May 21, 1872, died Mar. 30, 1947.

He died on December 29, 1877, in Macon, Moxabee County, Mississippi, and his widow survived until December 8, 1894.

GEORGE DENT, C.S.A.⁶

1843-1917

George Dent, son of George Dent and his wife Ann Sophia Ashton, was born December 17, 1843, in Charles County, Maryland. On November 30, 1865, he took as his first wife, Rosalie Adele Ashton, daughter of Dr. Horace Dade Ashton and Martha Thornton his wife, of Virginia.

Children of George and Rosalie (Ashton) Dent

1. Rosalie Adele Dent.
2. Martha Thornton Dent, born Apr. 9, 1869.
3. Sophia Ashton Dent, died unmarried 1923.
4. Lola Ashton Dent, died unmarried Mar. 8, 1904.
5. Rebecca Bibb Dent.

His first wife died and was buried on November 14, 1876, from Bleak Hill, Brunswick Parish, King George County, Virginia, the residence of her father, Dr. Horace Ashton, with the Rev. James W. Shields officiating, according to the annuals of that parish. He married secondly Laura Williams Maddox. She was born August 12, 1854, the daughter of Joseph Harris Maddox and Laura Williams his wife. The births of their children were taken from the family Bible.

6. Laura Williams Dent, born May 8, 1887.
7. Jaquelina Elizabeth Dent, born Aug. 6, 1889.
8. Olga Dent, born Oct. 8, 1891.
9. Lorraine Dent, born Mar. 26, 1893; died Aug. 1894.
10. George Dent, born June 30, 1895, died unmarried 1923.
11. Elizabeth Yates Dent, born July 19, 1898, died unmarried 1923.
12. Marjorie Dent, born July 15, 1899.

His wife died on April 21, 1910; he died on October 9, 1917, aged 74 years.

CAPTAIN JOHN HORRY DENT, C.S.A.⁷

1815-1892

Jonah Horry Dent, who later changed his name to John, was born on August 5, 1815, while his father Captain John Herbert Dent, was stationed at Newport, Rhode Island. He married first December 31, 1835, in Colleton District, South Carolina, Mary Elizabeth Morrison who died September 16, 1853, and was buried at Clayton, Barbour County, Alabama.

Children of John and Mary (Morrison) Dent

1. Robert Morrison Dent, born Oct. 15, 1836, died 1837.

2. Emma Julia Dent, born Mar. 28, 1838, married Maxmilian Bethune Wellborn.
3. John Horry Dent, born May 2, 1840, C.S.A.
4. Mary Elizabeth Dent, born June 22, 1842.
5. John Herbert Dent, born Feb. 20, 1845, C.S.A., Eufaula Light Infantry of Ala.
6. Anne Horry Dent, born Oct. 18, 1847.
7. Charles Baring Dent, born Oct. 16, 1849.
8. Sarah Lining Dent, born June 27, 1851, died 1866.
9. Kate Constance Dent, born Mar. 24, 1853, died Feb. 12, 1919, Biloxi, Miss.

On July 26, 1854, he married as his second wife, Fannie A. Whipple, who was born at Richmond, Vermont, and who died February 25, 1875.

Children of John and Fannie (Whipple) Dent

10. Fannie Whipple Dent, born Dec. 28, 1856.
11. George Columbus Dent, born Dec. 30, 1858, died 1879, unmarried.
12. Lucy Gertrude Dent, born Nov. 27, 1861.
13. Helen Alma Dent, born July 28, 1865, died 1872.
14. Carrie Mae Dent, born Jan. 23, 1868.

During the War Between the States he served as Captain of Co. G, 5th Ala. Regt. of Infantry. His son, John Horry Dent Jr., fought as a private in the Eufaula Light Infantry of Alabama.

He married thirdly on March 28, 1876, Elizabeth Anne Dowd, by whom no issue resulted. He died on May 17, 1892, at Cottage Home, Vann's Valley, Georgia, and was interred in the Cave Springs Cemetery, Floyd County, Georgia. His widow survived him a number of years and died on April 11, 1911.

CAPTAIN GEORGE COLUMBUS DENT, C.S.A.⁷
1822-1884

George Columbus Dent, son of Captain John Herbert Dent and Elizabeth Anne Horry his wife, was born at Fenwick's Plantation, St. Bartholomew Parish, Colleton District of South Carolina. He married on November 22, 1847, Ophelia Troup, who was born on January 20, 1827

Children of George and Ophelia (Troup) Dent

1. James Troup Dent, born Sept. 17, 1848.
2. George Troup Dent, born Sept. 15, 1850, died same year.
3. Frederick Preble Dent, born and died 1851.
4. Charles Morris Dent, born 1853, died 1854.
5. Brailsford Troup Dent, born Sept. 2, 1856, died 1889, unmarried.

6. George Reginald Dent, born Apr. 15, 1859, died 1886, unmarried.
7. John Sidney Dent, born Apr. 22, 1862, changed his name to Sidney Johnston Dent.

During the fight for States' Rights he was commissioned by the Confederate Government a Captain of Co. 4, 4th Ga. Cavalry commanded by Colonel Church. He died on March 4, 1884, at Carteret's Glynn County, Georgia; his widow died on November 20, 1905.

JOHN HERBERT DENT⁷

1822-1896

John Herbert Dent, son of General Dennis Dent and Martha Tennyson Beall his wife, was born February 9, 1822, and married according to the family historian, Charlotte Travis. He died on November 5, 1896, in Washington County, Mississippi. The following children were born: Martha M. Dent, born 1844; Annie Beall Dent, born 1848; William Travis Dent, born 1850; Dennis Truman Dent, born 1852, died unmarried Mobile, Ala.; Lola Belle Dent, born 1854; John Herbert Dent, born 1856; Alice Maud Dent, born 1861; Mollie Whitehead Dent, born 1869.

ROBERT KENNON DENT, C.S.A.⁷

1824-1898

Robert Kennon Dent, son of General Dennis Dent and Martha his wife, was born at Tuscaloosa, Alabama, on September 9, 1824. At Mobile, he married his cousin on June 4, 1854, Virginia Ann Mason, born August 9, 1837, at Tuscaloosa, the daughter of George Mason and Camilla Jett Dent his wife. During the War Between the States, he served in Co. G, 9th Mississippi Regiment of Cavalry. He died on January 3, 1898, in Jasper County, Mississippi.

Children of Robert and Ann (Mason) Dent

1. Martha Tennyson Dent, born Mar. 21, 1855, died 1911.
2. Jett Dent, born May 31, 1857.
3. Annie Dent, born Feb. 11, 1859.
4. Virginia Dent, born May 18, 1862.
5. Robert Kennon Dent, born Sept. 18, 1866.
6. Thomas Cole Dent, born June 24, 1868.
7. Hortense Dent, born Mar. 7, 1871.

JOHN MARSHALL DENT, M.D., C.S.A.⁷

1834-1922

John Marshall Dent who pursued the practise of medicine was born July 16, 1834, at Augusta, Georgia, the son of John Dent and Sarah

McIntish his wife. On December 22, 1857, at Augusta he married Maria Harper, the daughter of William and Mary Ann (Cashin) Harper. During the War Between the States he was commissioned by the Confederate Government the Assistant Surgeon of the 1st Georgia Battalion. He died on November 20, 1922.

Children of John and Maria (Harper) Dent

1. Edwin Gardiner Dent, born Dec. 28, 1861.
2. Margaret Whitehead Dent, born Apr. 22, 1864, died 1918.
3. Janet Blair Dent, born 1865, died 1884 unmarried.
4. Maria Harper Dent, born Dec. 4, 1867, died 1905 unmarried.
5. William Harper Dent, born Nov. 18, 1869.
6. Marion Wallace Dent, born 1872.
7. Charles Andrew Dent, born Dec. 31, 1872, died 1923 unmarried.
8. Sarah Cranford Dent, born 1876.
9. Caroline Elizabeth Dent, born 1880.

THEODORE DENT⁷

1829-1892

Theodore Dent, son of Peter and Mary Brown (Rogerson) Dent, was born in Charles County on February 12, 1829. He married about 1856 Catherine, the daughter of Hezekiah and Elizabeth Dement, of an old Charles County family. He died in October 1892.

Children of Theodore and Elizabeth (Dement) Dent

1. Mary Elizabeth Dent, born Oct. 13, 1858.
2. William Bell Dent, born June 18, 1860.
3. Robert Lee Dent, born Aug. 4, 1863.
4. Frank Magruder Dent, born July 23, 1867.
5. Ella Marbury Dent, born Aug. 14, 1870.
6. Ida Virginia Dent, born Mar. 31, 1873.
7. Rose Conington Dent.
8. Theodora Anstis Dent.
9. Edward Augustus Dent.

AUGUSTUS SHEID DENT⁷

1835-1898

Augustus Sheid Dent, son of Peter and Mary Brown (Rogerson) Dent, was born about 1835 in Charles County. On July 15, 1858, he secured license in the District of Columbia to marry Rosina V. Connington.

Children of Sheid and Rosina (Connington) Dent

1. Peter Raymond Dent, born circa 1859.
2. Edwin A. Dent, born 1861, died Nov. 19, 1877, unmarried.
3. Francis D. Dent, born circa 1871.

His first wife died on August 3, 1878, and he married secondly on May 1, 1889, Annie R. Sibley. She died on December 25, 1892, leaving an only son, Edwin H., born 1891, and died September 7, 1907. Sheid Dent died intestate on July 10, 1898.

CAPTAIN SIMON MAGRUDER DENT, C.S.A.⁷
1841 - 1893

Simon Magruder Dent, son of Peter and Mary Brown (Rogerson) Dent, was born in or about 1841 at Pomonkey, Charles County, Maryland, and spent his younger days in Alexandria, the port town, across from his native county.

At the beginning of the War Between the States, he enlisted as a private in a cavalry regiment organized in Northern Virginia. He was later promoted to First Lieutenant of Co. B, Fifth Virginia Cavalry under Captain Frederick R. Windsor, and was captured at Yellow Tavern in Alexandria.

A memorial article stated that he enlisted as a private in the Fifth Virginia Cavalry, General Thomas L. Rosser's Regiment, and rose by gallant and meritorious service on the field of battle to the rank of captain. He was severely wounded but soon recovered. Later he was taken prisoner during a raid on the Union Lines and was one of the officers who was placed in front of Charleston, South Carolina, by the Union Army, to prevent Confederate soldiers firing on the workmen.

After the war he returned to the scenes of his youth and attempted to rebuild what had been destroyed and to adjust himself to the new order of events. On July 27, 1870, at Washington, D. C., he married Florence Parker, the daughter of Joseph Messenger and Olivia (Edelen) Parker. Two old families were united—both the Edelens and Parkers being identified with Maryland almost as early as the Dents.

Children of Simon and Florence (Parker) Dent

1. Ollie Dent, born Mar. 23, 1872, at Piscataway, Md., married June 8, 1892, Frederick, son of John Alexander and Anne (Dorman) Coe, of Brandywine, Md.
2. John Florence Dent, born Nov. 20, 1874, married Kate Hawkins Clagett. *q.v.*

His first wife died young, and on July 5, 1884, he married a kinswoman of his departed wife, Laura Virginia Gwynn, the daughter of Bennett and Eleanor (Edelen) Gwynn. The wedding was a society event and was duly reported in the Sunday edition of the *Baltimorean* following the event.

"A quiet but pretty and interesting wedding was celebrated on the evening of Tuesday, June 5th, at St. Martin's Catholic Church. The contracting parties were Mr. S. Magruder Dent, of Alexandria, Va., and Miss Laura V. Gwynn, daughter of Mr. Bennett F. Gwynn, formerly of Prince Georges County, Md., but later a resident of Baltimore. In the absence of Rev. Dr. Foley, Father Mackenzie, officiated. The bride wore a handsomely, fitted traveling dress of wood color, and the groom the inevitable black. After receiving the nuptial benediction, Mr. and Mrs. Dent left on usual bridal tour. Their future home will be Alexandria, Va."

Children of Simon and Laura (Gwynn) Dent

3. Bennett Gwynn Dent, born Oct. 8, 1885, at Alexandria, Va., married Opie Tuggle, and died without issue Mar. 9, 1962; Mr. Dent retired from the vice presidency of Riggs National Bank in 1950, where he conducted foreign operations for a number of years.
4. Eva Gwynn Dent, born Nov. 20, 1886, died Jan. 12, 1912, without issue, married James Randall Caton Jr.
5. Mary Anstis Dent, born May 8, 1888, at Alexandria, Va., died May 6, 1911, without issue, married Roy, son of Edelen and Ella (Gwynn) Parker.
6. Magruder Dent, born June 1, 1889, married Edith Baily, daughter of Frederick Lang and Caroline Corliss Baily, of Ardmore, Penna. *q.v.*

Captain Dent died at Alexandria on January 31, 1893, and was buried in the Roman Catholic Cemetery in Alexandria. His widow died on March 19, 1899, and was buried beside her late husband.

The Gwynn family of which Laura Virginia Gwynn Dent (Mrs. Simon Magruder) was a part goes back into the colonial period of our country, but the early history is rather fragmentary owing to the conditions of the times. During the Federal period the family acquired wealth and influence and the scions intermarried with the gentry county families. The true history, that is what can be proved, begins with Bennett Gwinn son of Hooper Gwinn who in 1777 came into court at Upper Marlborough and declared himself to be 19 years of age and made choice of Thomas Hagan as his guardian. On November 25, 1777, Thomas Hagan gave bond to the court in the value of £400 which would indicate that the orphan's

estate was valued in the neighborhood of £200—not a small estate for that day, yet very little information is available on Hooper Gwynn.

Mrs. Effie Gwynn Bowie in her book "Across the Years in Prince Georges County" believed Bennet Gwynn to be the son of Hooper Gwynn who died intestate in Fairfax County, Virginia, during 1759. Inasmuch as Hooper is not an uncommon Christian name, there is certainly some grounds for the implication.

Bennett Gwynn or Gwynn was therefore born in or about the year 1758, and the fact that Thomas Hagan was a member of the Roman Catholic faith it is evident that young Bennett was likewise raised in that faith, though his first two wives were of the Anglican Church.

He saw active service towards the closing days of the American Revolution in the local militia. As Benit Gwynn, his name is on the extant pay roll, dated 8 June 1782, of the Lower Battalion of Militia commanded by Colonel William Lyles, of Prince Georges County, for duty at Nottingham on the Patuxent.

Bennett Gwynn established his seat at "Hicory Plains" in the southern portion of Prince Georges County. He certainly possessed much personal charm, for he acquired four wives from among the gentry families of the Province, yet his first marriage did not occur until he was nearly 37 years of age. On January 13, 1795, he secured license to marry Mary Belt, of Anne Arundel County. Their married life was brief for the young bride died within two years. He married secondly Susannah Hilleary by license of February 21, 1797, the daughter of Henry Hilleary and Cassandra Magruder his wife, of Prince Georges County. It was through this marriage that Mrs. Dent descends. On August 29, 1807, he secured license to marry Rebecca Edelen, the daughter of Richard Edelen of Frankland in Prince Georges County. Late in life he married the Widow Boone who was born Ann Teresa Elder but who was then the relict of Ignatius Boone of Nicholas.

According to the *National Intelligencer* of June 17, 1826, Bennett Gwynn died at his residence in Prince Georges County on May 29, 1826, in "his 72d year after a long and complicated illness which he bore with exemplary fortitude and resignation".

He devised his son, John Hilleary Gwynn, who became the grandfather of Mrs. Dent a portion of "Marlow's Resurvey". John Hilleary Gwynn was born in December 1797, and on February 8, 1820, he married Ann Eliza Dyer, the daughter of Lieutenant Francis Clements Dyer, of the State Militia during the American Revolution, and Ann Clarkson his wife.

The latter was of distinguished lineage being directly descended from Jane, Lady Baltimore, and consort to Charles 3d Lord Baltimore, through Henry Sewell, Esq., Secretary of the Province. He was styled Captain Gwynn in public records. He died testate in 1857, possessed of a large estate which was administered by his son, Andrew Jackson Gwynn.

Bennett Francis Gwynn, his son and the father of Mrs. Dent, was devised the dwelling-plantation on which he the son was then seated. In 1860 he was domiciled near Surrattsville with a substantial estate and included farms, animals, etc. with numerous slaves. His mansion called Mount Auburn was a portion of the large grant of "His Lordship's Kindness". Owing to changes resulting from the effects of the Civil War he sold his estate about 1870 and removed to Baltimore.

He died on August 15, 1897, at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. Dent, on Prince Street in Alexandria, Virginia, at the age of 74 years. He was an earnest Southern Sympathizer and his son, Clarence, was killed early in 1861 at the age of seventeen while on picket duty at Munson's Hill, Fairfax County. Another son, Andrew Jackson Gwynn, won distinction in the Confederate Army.

He Andrew Jackson Gwynn was born November 24, 1836, at Pleasant Springs, Prince Georges, County, Maryland, son of John Hilleary Gwynn and Ann Elizabeth Dyer his wife, and a brother of Bennet Francis Gwynn. Andrew Gwynn and his family owned large landed and business interests at the outbreak of the Civil War. Living within a relatively short distance from Washington, D. C., they were in the section that Union soldiers endeavored to subjugate more thoroughly than any other and in the wake of that war their property and interests were swept away.

It was in April 1861, in his 24th year that Andrew Gwynn enlisted as a private soldier in the Confederate Army. He was sent early to the war front remaining there until General Lee surrendered, having been promoted to Captain while serving the Lost Cause after which he entered civilian business life and settled at Spartanburg, South Carolina, remaining there until his death about August 9, 1908, and is buried in Oakwood Cemetery, Spartanburg, with his wife, Louise.

Captain and Mrs. Gwynn were the parents of seven children who grew to maturity, including Effie Gwynn who married Richard Irving Bowie, of Upper Marlborough, Prince Georges County, Maryland, who was the author of "Across the Years in Prince Georges County", a genealogical history of many families who settled there in the founding period of Maryland.

Captain Gwynn was revered in Spartanburg, where he spent the major part of his life and was active in the religious, cultural and business development of the town. Fairly close relatives of the Gwynn family to live in Spartanburg for a period of 15 years up to this time, 1963, is the Frederick Baily Dent family, including Mrs. Mildred H. Dent, his wife, and five children. Mr. Dent is President of Mayfair Mills in the nearby village of Arcadia, and the Dent family has been of important influence in the community development.

Other children of Captain Gwynn who had outstanding recognition in South Carolina and elsewhere were the Rev. Andrew Keene Gwynn, a Roman Catholic priest, who was advanced to Monsignor after forty years or more service to his country and Church, and Mary Gwynn who married Christopher Cashiel Fitzsimmons Hammond, of Beech Island, South Carolina, son of Major Harry Hamond and his wife, of Redcliffe Beach Island, about fifteen miles from Augusta, Georgia, in South Carolina.

ALBERT TATUM DENT⁷

1863-1929

Albert Tatum Dent, son of William Dent by his second wife Mary Witherspoon, was born March 25, 1863, at Macon, Mississippi. On September 8, 1887, at Macon, Mississippi, he married a kinswoman, Anna Dent Minor, born August 8, 1866, the daughter of Dr. Henry Augustin Minor and Mary Ann Dent his wife.

Children of Albert and Anna (Minor) Dent

1. Henry Minor Dent, born Jan. 4, 1889.
2. William Dent, born October 1890.
3. Albert Tatum Dent, born June 30, 1892.
4. Mary Cooper Dent, born October 1894.
5. Frances Washington Dent, born Jan. 1896.
6. Emmet Cooper Dent, born and died 1898.
7. Launcelot Longstreet Dent, born Sept. 1902.
8. Lucian Witherspoon Minor Dent, born 1904, married Phoebe Paxton, and left issue.
9. Emmet Roy Dent, born 1906.
10. Anna Louise Dent, born 1909.

He, a lawyer by profession, served two terms in the Senate for the State of Mississippi, but declined reelection at the expiration of his term of office in January 1908. He died at Macon on December 17, 1929, and his widow on July 22, 1956, in Memphis, Tennessee.

JOHN FLORENCE DENT⁸

1874-1935

John Florence Dent, son of Simon Magruder and Florence (Parker) Dent, was born on November 6, 1874. He married on February 5, 1907, Catherine Sophelia Clagett, daughter of John Thomas Clagett and Julia Hawkins his wife. He died in October 1935, at Accokeek, Prince Georges County, Maryland. As he was a veteran of the Spanish-American War, he was buried in Arlington National Cemetery with military honours. He and his wife had the following children: Julia Hawkins Dent who married Adelbert Hungerford; John Florence Dent; Henry Clagett Dent; Magruder Dent; and Sophelia Dent.

MAGRUDER DENT⁸

1889-

Magruder Dent, youngest son of Captain Simon Magruder Dent, of the Confederate Army, and his second wife, Laura Gwynn, was born June 1, 1889, at Alexandria, Virginia. He served in the First World War as Second Lieutenant, Signal Corps, U. S. Air Service. He married Edith Houston Baily in Church of the Redeemer, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, on July 27, 1918. Mrs. Dent was born at Ardmore, Pennsylvania, on November 15, 1895, the daughter of Frederick Lang and Caroline (Corliss) Baily.

Children of Magruder and Edith (Baily) Dent

1. Magruder Dent, born May 8, 1919, married Rosemary Romeyn. *q.v.*
2. Frederick Baily Dent, born Aug. 17, 1922, married Mildred Harrison. *q.v.*
3. Edith Baily Dent, born Jan. 8, 1924, married Eugene M. Moore. *q.v.*
4. Diana Gwynn Dent, born Oct. 1, 1928. *q.v.*

Mr. and Mrs. Dent settled at Greenwich, Connecticut, in 1924 and have continued residence there since. Also they have had a small cottage at Southern Pines, North Carolina, where they have spent considerable time during the winters.

Mrs. Dent has had much interest in thoroughbred horses since early youth, resulting in riding to fox hounds with her children and thereafter for some time imported Connemara ponies from Ireland which she bred. Later she imported thoroughbred horses from Ireland and France and has been developing a racing stable. She had successfully raced on tracks in Florida, Maryland, New Jersey, New York City and Saratoga Springs.

She had raced under her own name as well as Pine Cone Farm, Southern Pines.

Magruder Dent has been active in the Cotton Textile trade with headquarters in New York City for forty years and also has participated in various industrial and banking institutions. He holds memberships in numerous clubs, business and social.

MAGRUDER DENT JR.⁹

1919-

Magruder Dent Jr., son of Magruder Dent and Edith Baily his wife, was born on May 8, 1919, at Augusta, Georgia. His education was obtained at St. Paul's School, Concord, New Hampshire, where he was graduated in the Class of 1936, and at Yale University which granted him an AB degree with the Class of 1940.

About this time the second World War broke out and Mr. Dent was commissioned an Ensign in the United States Naval Reserves on October 30, 1940, and served continuously until March 1, 1946, terminating his active duty as Lieutenant Commander. Later he was advanced to Commander of the Naval Reserves. During the war he was the commanding officer at one-time or another on mine sweepers, namely, *U.S.S. Barbet* (AMc-38), *U.S.S. Heed* (AM-100) and the *U.S.S. Tercel* (AM-386), in the North Atlantic and later was transferred to the Central and North Pacific areas including service around the Bering Sea.

A few months before he severed his active duty or on December 7, 1946, he married Rosemary Romeyn, born on January 7, 1922, at Meadowbrook, Pennsylvania, daughter of Radcliffe Romeyn and Rosalie Elliman his wife. At the University of Pennsylvania before her marriage Mrs. Dent studied therapeutics and subsequently served at the Army Hospital, White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, until the end of the war and thereafter has voluntarily devoted her services to institutions for persons physically deficient.

Children of Magruder and Rosemary (Romeyn) Dent

1. Peter Dent, born May 11, 1949, New York City.
2. Susan Romeyn Dent, born Jan. 1, 1951, Stamford, Conn.
3. Magruder Dent III, born Sept. 25, 1953, Charlottesville, Va.

Mr. Dent entered the Law School of the University of Virginia, graduating with an LL.B. with the Class of 1954. He was admitted to the Virginia State bar and has since practiced law in Charlottesville. He

maintains his residence at "Polaris", near Charlottesville in Albemarle County, where he is engaged in stock farming along with his law practice.

FREDERICK BAILY DENT⁹

1922 -

Frederick Baily Dent, son of Magruder and Edith (Baily) Dent, was born at Cape May, New Jersey, on August 17, 1922. He was educated at the Greenwich (Conn.) Country Day School, at St. Paul's School, Concord, New Hampshire, and Yale University, graduating from the latter in May 1943 with a B.A. degree. After his graduation, where he had taken N.R.O.T.C. while at Yale, he entered active service as an Ensign. His initial assignment was Engineering Officer of the *U.S.S. Patrol Craft Escort—873* which operated in the Pacific theater. His second assignment was as Commanding Officer with the grade of Lieutenant J.G., U.S.N.R., of the *U.S.S. Patrol Escort—1547* from August 1945, until his release to inactive duty in March 1946.

On March 11, 1944, Mr. Dent married Mildred Carrington Harrison, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James L. Harrison, of New York City and Bedford Village, New York, at the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City. Mrs. Dent before her marriage attended Brearly School and Chatham Hall.

Children of Frederick and Mildred (Harrison) Dent

1. Frederick Baily Dent, born Apr. 29, 1947, New York City, student 1962 Woodberry Forest School, Va.
2. Mildred Hutcheson Dent, born July 27, 1949, Spartanburg, S. C., student (1962) Spartanburg Day School.
3. Pauline Harrison Dent, born Feb. 9, 1952, Spartanburg, S. C., student (1962) Spartanburg Day School.
4. Diana Gwynn Dent, born Dec. 24, 1955, Spartanburg, S. C., student (1962) Spartanburg Day School.
5. Magruder Harrison Dent, born July 20, 1958, Spartanburg, S. C.

Mr. and Mrs. Dent resided in New York from March 1946 until October 1947, where Mr. Dent was employed with Joshua L. Baily & Co., following his release from the Navy. In October 1947, they removed to Spartanburg, South Carolina, where Mr. Dent became President of Mayfair Mills, manufacturers of cotton textiles.

EDITH (DENT) MOORE⁹

1924 -

Edith Baily Dent, daughter of Magruder and Edith (Baily) Dent, was born at Ardmore, Pennsylvania, on January 8, 1924, and attended Rosemary Academy, Foxcroft School, Middleburg, Virginia, and Bryn Mawr College. She was married to Eugene Maxwell Moore at Greenwich, Connecticut, on September 12, 1947.

Children of Eugene and Edith (Dent) Moore

1. Eugene Maxwell Moore III, born Sewickley, Penn., June 5, 1948.
2. Michael Dent Moore, born Sewickley, Penn., Oct. 10, 1949.
3. Douglas Graham Moore, born Grand Haven, Mich., Apr. 11, 1952.
4. Edith Baily Moore, born Greenwich, Conn., May 19, 1955.
5. Margaret Graham Moore, born Greenwich, Conn., Dec. 12, 1957.

Mr. Moore, born at Greenwich, Connecticut, on December 21, 1917, is the son of Eugene M. Moore (deceased) and Margaret Graham his wife. He was graduated from St. Paul's School, Concord, New Hampshire, and Yale University, Class of 1940, and subsequently was awarded a Master of Science degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

From February 1941 to February 1946, Mr. Moore participated in extended service and training in the United States Army and was first commissioned a Second Lieutenant of the Air Force and assigned to various training fields as instructor. Then, as Chief Pilot of the 20th Air Force, he later saw duty in Egypt and India with operations into China. He was advanced to Captain and Squadron Commander of the Chenkung Army, and resigned from the service with grade of Major. Upon termination he received the Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal with two clusters.

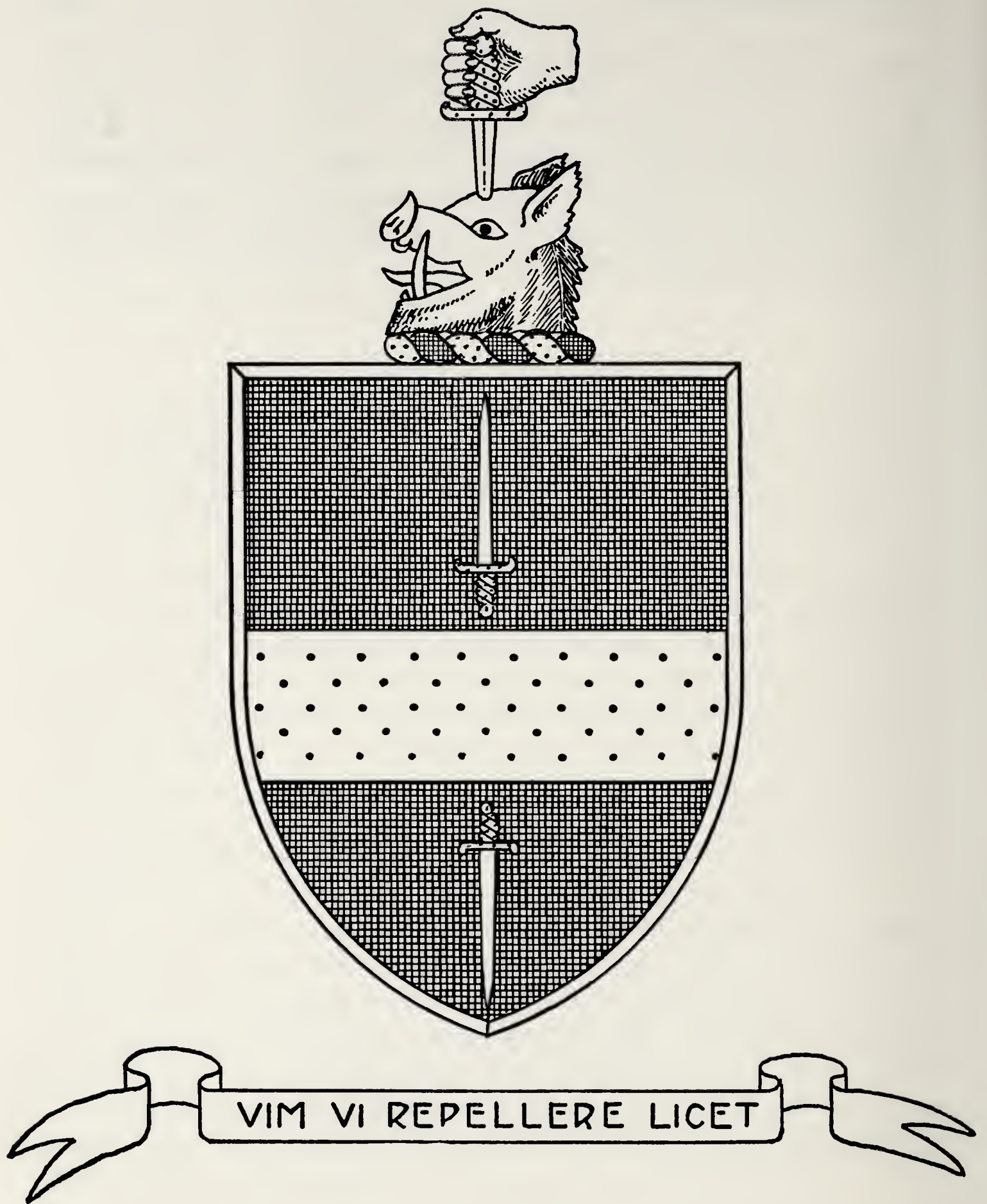
Subsequently, he became associated with the firm of Manning, Maxwell & Moore, Inc., at Stratford, Connecticut, an old American concern which has continued in service for over one hundred years. He is at present Director and Vice President. He and his family reside on Old Academy Road, Fairfield, Connecticut.

DIANA GWYNN DENT⁹

1928 -

Diana Gwynn Dent, the youngest child of Magruder and Edith (Baily) Dent, was born at Philadelphia on October 1, 1928. She was graduated from Rosemary Hall, Greenwich, Connecticut, in 1946, and received a B.A. degree from Sweet Briar College in 1950. From 1950 to 1957, she

was a youth worker with the Episcopal Church in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and New York City. In 1958 she taught kindergarten in New York during which year she completed graduate work at Columbia Teachers College receiving a M.A. degree in education. At present (1962) she is on the teaching staff of the Child Development Center in New York City, and resides at Meadow Croft Lane, Greenwich, Connecticut, but also maintains an apartment in New York City.



Gwynedd

CAPTAIN JOHN DENT AND HIS DESCENDANTS



CAPTAIN JOHN DENT, GENT.

16— 1712

The relationship of Captain John Dent to Judge Thomas Dent has puzzled the family historian as well as professional antiquarians. It has been stated often in print without documentation that he was a younger brother of Thomas, but it can definitely be disregarded, inasmuch as a John Dent was not listed as a son of Peter Dent, of Gisborough, Yorks, in the 1684 Visitation of Cambridgeshire. That he was a kinsman, there is no doubt, and a nephew would be the most logical assumption, but even then he may have been a cousin as used in the modern sense.

After an analysis of all factors with the Christian names of his children as the best criterion for inference, it is most likely that he was a nephew and the son of George Dent, of Gisborough, brother to Judge Thomas Dent, both being sons of Peter Dent, of Gisborough, and Margaret Nicholson his wife. The only alternative for being a nephew to Judge Thomas Dent would be a son to William, of Gisborough, but George was given as a Christian name to one of John's sons, whereas William was not.

John Dent came into Maryland about 1658 with Thomas Dent who claimed land rights in 1663 for his transportation, and in that year John Dent witnessed a conveyance of William Hatton to Thomas Dent. The year previous or 1662 he witnessed the last will and testament of William Hewes who bequeathed his entire estate to William Hatton of William and and William Dent of Thomas. In 1695 he employed William Dent of Thomas his attorney to institute legal action against one Lemaister. In those years it is therefore evident that he was in close association with Thomas Dent and was a freeholder and of age.

In 1663 he witnessed the conveyance of 100 acres by John Hatch, of Hatch's Neck, who became his father-in-law. He was well established as a planter by September 1666, when he entered his cattle marks at court in Charles County. At court in June 1667, he sued Gerard Brown, the administrator of the estate of John Brown, for a debt of 400 lbs. tob. The same year he witnessed a deed of conveyance between Thomas Baker and Thomas Pope.

In 1669 he presented at court his servant, Robert Kent, whose age was adjudged as 12 years. That the colonists enslaved some of the Indians as bond servants is a well-established fact and in 1690 we have the case of

James Boareman, an Indian servant of Captain John Dent, absenting himself from his master's service.

In 1670 he was appointed by the court to appraise the estate of Walter Beane, of Charles County. The next year he paid an alienation fee for his purchase of "Cumberston" from Francis Pope. The declaration was made by him in March 1679, at which time Francis Pope was deceased.

His early days in the Province were spent in Charles County near his kinsman, but he eventually resided in the northern portion of St. Mary's County near present Charlotte Hall where his reputed house is still standing.

On March 20, 1672, as John Dent, of St. Mary's County, he proved land rights for 50 acres for his time of service performed in the Province and 50 acres by assignment from George Gunnell. Thomas Dent was a witness. The latter could be none other than Judge Thomas Dent and again it implied close association in that year. The nature of the service performed was not disclosed. Thomas Dent did not declare him as a redemptioner in 1663, but it is possible that he was, and then it is also possible that he apprenticed himself to some planter for a limited time and thus was entitled to land rights at the termination of his indentureship.

To add to the intricacies of his status, Thomas Dent entered land rights the second time for a John Dent in 1673. The question is therefore whether the two applications for land rights by Thomas Dent were for the one and the same or rather two John Dents entered the Province. It is also possible and consistent with the times that he left the Province for a brief period and returned with his passage covered by Thomas Dent and thus only one John Dent to be accounted for.

Whether there were two John Dents and the one who was transported by Judge Thomas Dent in 1658 died young and without issue is an unsolved question, but it is certain that John Dent who later figured prominently in the military affairs of the Province and two insurrections against the Proprietary Party was the freeholder in 1669.

As early as 1681, he was involved with Josias Fendall, former Governor of the Province, and Captain John Coode in their attempt to overthrow the rule of Lord Baltimore. They failed at that time but were successful in 1689.

For the 50 acres due for his service, and an assignment of 50 acres from George Gunnell, he was granted in 1674 "Barnaby", of 60 acres, which adjoined his plantation of "Cumberston". The 40 odd acres were applied

to another patent and with an added 100 acres were surveyed into "Promise".

Some 20 years after his arrival in the Province or in 1679 he was commissioned a Justice of the Peace for St. Mary's County. There are records of his serving in that capacity in 1680, 1684-85 and 1689. In 1694 he was a Justice of the Quorum. On June 6, 1692, he served on a special commission of "Oyer and Terminer".

In 1689 he was Captain of the Foot for Chaptico Hundred, the year in which the insurgents suppressed Proprietary rule under the Calverts and ushered in a period of Royal Government direct from the Crown. On May 7, 1694, Benjamin Hall, of St. Mary's, read a petition before the General Assembly for the return of some guns and ammunition taken from Captain Bowling, late of St. Mary's County, in the time of the Revolution by Captain John Dent with whose widow (Bowling's) Hall had since intermarried.

It is not known whether by his own inner convictions or whether he was converted by his Puritan father-in-law, John Hatch, who had passed on by the 1689 Revolution, but John Dent and his family in their public life espoused the cause of liberalism. He sent his son, Peter, back to England to study at Jesus College, Cambridge, always known for its liberal teachings, and when his son, Michael, was admitted to the bar in Maryland, he refused to take the Royal Oath of Allegiance and Supremacy but subscribed only to the Oath of Parliament.

His liberalism aligned him with the Anti-Proprietary Party and as mentioned previously participated in the overthrow of Lord Baltimore's Government by the ultra-liberals in 1689. His honours were therefore mostly during the Royal Regime in the reign of William and Mary. In 1696 he was among those planters who signed an address to "His Sacred Majesty" upon the arrival of the news of "his escape from assassination".

By June 1678, John Dent had acquired nuptial status, but circumstances would place his marriage much earlier. On that date he and Mary his wife conveyed "Promise", of 140 acres, to Richard Ashman. The deed of conveyance was acknowledged by Richard Edelen, Gent., as attorney for the grantors. His wife was the daughter and heiress of Captain John Hatch who had been transported by Clobery & Co., for their trading post on the Isle of Kent under the supervision of the indomitable William Claiborne. After the expulsion of Claiborne from Maryland, Hatch settled in St. Mary's County, served in the Lower House, and was active with Fendall and Coode in their unsuccessful insurrection. He died presumably

early in 1681, anyhow, he was deceased by November of that year, when the Provincial Court of Maryland investigated the treason of Fendall and Coode.

John Dent was summoned to appear before the Court and deposed that he had been at Mr. Hatch's house to attend his funeral, when on his way home in the road in the woods near John Gooches, he met Captain Josiah Fendall. Fendall asked him the news, to which Dent replied that he lived in the forest, where they had little or no news. Fendall questioned him as to the confederation between the Roman Catholics and the Indians.

Thomas Perry, of St. Mary's, also made a deposition stating that he had heard Mr. John Dent say that he and Captain Fendall had a meeting. Fendall asked him whether he had heard any news, but Dent replied, "Captain Fendall I have often heard you talk in this manner, but I should like you better if you said less and did more. If there be occasion do but send me word, for most part of the forest where I live will be at my command to do what I would have them".

Fendall replied "If we could secure [meaning perhaps capture] His Lordship, the Chancellor, the Secretary and Colonel Darnall, the rest would fall of course. As to Esq. Talbott, I know not what to make of him".

Dent furthermore stated that when he came to St. Mary's His Lordship tendered him the Bible to take his oath at which he was much startled and unwilling to declare anything, whereupon His Lordship "huffed and Flurted his periwig and seemed very much dissatisfied".

Dent was afraid to talk, for fear of Fendall should impeach him, but "that night considering with himself that Fendall was a prisoner and could do him no hurt, he might freely speak". Dent then replied that if he had declared all that he knew about Fendall and which he heard Fendall say "at his father-in-law Hatch's burial he could hang him".

Before his death John Dent had acquired a landed estate of some proportion. His seat was in the woods, as he stated, meaning in that day that it was away from a water course. It was in the vicinity of present Charlotte Hall School for Boys on which was later discovered a medicinal spring. An old house, known as the Dent House, is alleged to have been built by him.

Apparently Captain Dent discovered the healing qualities of his spring and word soon circulated that it had miraculous powers to cure lameness and other diseases. At a session of the General Assembly of April 1698, it was recorded "as to Captⁿ Dents L^s about the Coole Spring, it is looked

upon as an Idle Letter not worth any answer". At a subsequent Assembly, however, more serious consideration was given to its healing powers.

The Lower House on November 1, 1698, ordered that a committee be formed to purchase 50 acres for the use of Coole Spring and if the owner objected, then to exercise the rights of eminent domain. Ten days later it was recorded in the minutes of the Lower House "for the support of poor Diseased and lame persons, if it shall please God that the Coole Springs do continue to make the like Cures as lately that the house would appropriate £100 that is in Bancke (besides the £800 now allotted toward the Discharge of the Levy) for the building of small Tenements at the said Coole Spring for the Entertainment of such lame diseased persons as shall restore thither for Cure of their Lameness & Diseases".

The Vestry of All Faith's Parish likewise became interested and on November 24, 1698, ordered the parish to purchase for a consideration of £25 fifty acres of land near "a fountain of healing water" from Captain John Dent.

At the 1698 session it was also recorded "that it had pleased God to withdraw from us his afflicting hand of sickness and Restoreing health and blessing us with Severall Beneficiall and healing Waters Called the Coole Spring which by his blessing have wrought many wonderfull and Signall Cures".

The Council also acted and it was ordered that the Governor place ten Bibles for the use of the poor people who came to be healed and some "sober person" read prayers there twice a day and to be given 12 pence a day for his services and also to send "a Book of Homilys, two books of Family Devotions & a Book of Reformed Devotions written by Dr. Theophilus Dorrington of which Books he is read to them on Sundays". There also to be constructed a reading desk and some benches made in the New House for the reader to read Prayers and the people to sit on.

At the session of June 1699, Captain John Dent petitioned the Assembly that "in Compensation of his loss att the Cool Springs he and his heirs onely may have liberty to keep Ordinary att the said Springs" without license fees. It was furthermore suggested at the session of July 3, 1699, that 50 acres had been ordered to be purchased at £25, and that the remaining £75 be used for the construction of the tenements.

On July 1, 1699, Dent made another appeal to maintain an Ordinary for himself and heirs, but the Lower House declared that it had no power to grant such a license. However, he "may applye himself to the County

Court".

But on July 12, 1699, Captain Jacob Moreland, a member of the Assembly, reported that he tendered Mr. John Dent the conveyance to act in the presence of two Justices of the Peace which "he Absolutely refused and denied that he had made any Bargaine with the Country for the Sd Land". By the spring session of the Assembly for 1700, Captain Dent had not conveyed the land.

Peter, his son, who was abroad at the writing of his father's will, was undoubtedly the Peter Dent of Maryland who matriculated at Jesus College, Cambridge, on November 13, 1700. Michael, another son, was of age by January 1696/7, when he was admitted as an attorney of the Province and subscribed to the Oath of Parliament instead of "ye oaths of allegiance and supremacy". Michael died, however, intestate and unmarried a short time thereafter. His father refused to administer on his estate, and in August 1697, he wrote to Robert Mason, the greatest creditor, "I have once and again told I will not administer on my son's estate, for I will not be made rich by my son".

Children of John and Mary (Hatch) Dent

1. Peter Dent, returned to England.
2. Michael Dent, *d.s.p.*
3. John Dent married Catherine ————. *q.v.*
4. George Dent married Elizabeth Short and Mary ————. *q.v.*
5. Mary Dent.
6. Lydia Dent married Samuel Turner.
7. Anne Dent married John Cadle [Caudle].
8. Abigail Dent.
9. Christian Dent married Thomas Suite.

Captain Dent executed his last will and testament on September 25, 1711, which was duly proved at court in Charles County on May 5, 1712.

To son John he devised "Cumberston", "Barnaby", "Reading", "Evan's Addition", the land and house at Newporte, "Providence", "Pearl's Progress", "Harrison's Adventure" aggregating 1325 acres and the estate devised the testator by John Harrison, but son John was not to pay the Lord's rent until he acquired possession.

To son Peter "if he comes to Maryland to settle" then he was have the devisees of John.

To daughter Mary "Ashman's Freehold".

To daughter Lydia "St. Ann's" of 100 acres.

To daughter Anne "St. Stephen Coleman" of 200 acres and "Evan's Reserve" of 1100 acres.

To daughter Abigail "Love's Adventure" of 136 acres.

To daughter Christian "Coldwell's" of 331 acres and tract taken out of "Trentfork" of 25 acres, "Horse Range" of 200 acres, but if son Peter came into Maryland, then "Horse Range" to him. In the event that Christian died without issue then the realty was to revert to testator's family, but if daughter had an heir of her body then to her heirs forever.

To his "disobedient son George" "Haphazard" of 50 acres, and "Freestone Point" of 324 acres, but if son Peter came into Maryland to dwell then one half of "Freestone Point" to him.

Wife to hold all the lands and housing and mill or mills already built or hereafter built during life and at her death to dispose of her one-half of personal estate as she thought fit.

Residuary estate to wife and son John and they to be executors.

His personal estate was appraised at £269/10/7, with Georye Dent and Samuel Turner approving as the kinsmen. Among the items were one drum, guns, three swords, two canes, books, but there were no slaves or indentured servants.

His widow, Mary Dent, died in 1725/6. Her son, John Dent, was granted letters of administration, with his bond dated March 5, 1725/6, assured by George Dent and John Caudle. Samuel Turner and George Dent approped the valuation of her personal estate on June 2, 1726.

JOHN DENT OF JOHN²

1674-1733

John Dent, first surviving son of Captain John Dent and Mary Hatch his wife, was born about 1674 in Chaptico Hundred, St. Mary's County, according to deposition made in 1727. At that time he declared himself to be 53 years of age and swore to a former bound tree on Tyrer's land.

Neither he nor his brother participated in the political life of the Province, presumably by the fact that they espoused the ultra-liberal cause of that period in politics. When Lord Baltimore regained his Province in 1715 and Maryland was no longer under the direct rule of the Crown, the conservatives or the Proprietary Party in St. Mary's were able to control the social and political stage and presumably the sons of Captain John Dent became members of the honourable opposition. His descendants retired inauspiciously to their plantations and engaged primarily in agricultural pursuits.

The wife of John Dent of John was Catherine ——— at the time of his death, so it is assumed that she was the mother of his children, as no other marriage has been proved. He died intestate and without an adequate administration of his estate, so it has been difficult to prove a correct

list of his children other than the four sons—John, Hatch, Michael and Benjamin. That there were daughters is highly possible.

He died intestate during the spring of 1733. The inventory of his personal effects was taken on June 8, 1733, with his brother, George Dent, and his nephew, Edward Turner, approving the valuation. Thomas Matthews and Samuel Turner Jr. offered bond for the widow, Catherine Dent, who was granted letters of administration.

In 1720 undoubtedly upon his own petition this landed estate which consisted of "Cumberson", "Reading", "Evans' Addition", "Barnaby", lying west of Zachia Swamp near the village of Newport, now in Charles County, and the addition of some vacant land were surveyed into a larger tract of 1169 acres. At the time of his death the patent had not been duly executed or issued, and it was not until June 1734 when his son and heir petitioned the court for a valid patent that formal letters patent were issued. Although according to the law of the Province, his being the son and heir and entitled to the entire landed estate of his father, intestate, he divided the tract which was issued under the name of "Dent's Inheritance" to his three brothers and in this manner the four sons of John Dent of John were proved, namely, John Dent III, Hatch Dent, Michael Dent and Benjamin Dent.

"Dent's Inheritance" was eventually divided up among the respective heirs and became the seats of this branch of the Dent family. The concentration of the family within this small area which became part of Trinity Parish at its organization fostered a number of intermarriages among cousins which was more noticeable in this branch than the descendants of Judge Thomas Dent.

GEORGE DENT OF JOHN²

16— 1750

George was the younger and disobedient son of Captain John Dent and Mary Hatch his wife, but records failed to show the cause of his being so marked. His father, however, did not disinherit him with five shillings which was usually the custom of that day, but left him two plantations, namely "Haphazard" and "Freestone Point".

His first wife was Elizabeth, daughter of a neighboring planter of Charles County by the name of George Short. By his father-in-law's will of 1718, his wife, Elizabeth Dent and her brother, Daniel Short, were to share equally in the dwelling-plantation and personal estate after the death

of the testator's widow. His second wife who survived was named Mary ———, but inasmuch as his first wife, Elizabeth, was alive in 1718 which would reasonably give them a nuptial life of some ten years, perhaps most of the children were of the first union.

Children of George Dent

1. John Dent married ———. *q.v.*
2. George Dent.
3. Mary Dent married James Armstrong.
4. Lydia Dent.
5. Charity Dent.
6. Peter Dent. *q.v.*
7. Thomas Dent married Elizabeth Edwards. *q.v.*
8. William Dent.

His will was dated April 5, 1746, and presented for probate in St. Mary's County on June 7, 1750.

To son John 100 acres of the plantation whereon he was then domiciled.

To son George 50 acres of the plantation whereon he was then domiciled.

To the three youngest sons Peter, Thomas and William the residue of the landed estate, but William was to have the portion on which he was living.

To daughters Mary Armstrong, Lydia Dent and Charity Dent negroes and other personalty.

To wife Mary the personal estate during life then to be divided equally among the following children—Peter Dent, William Dent, Thomas Dent and Charity Dent.

His widow, apparently much younger than he, soon remarried. Her next husband was Justinian Mills, the marriage being recorded in St. Andrew's Parish as of October 26, 1751.

JOHN DENT 3d

17— 1791

John Dent, son of John, was born in Newport Hundred of Charles County. Upon the death of his father he inherited as the son and heir the large plantation "Dent's Inheritance" which on March 10, 1732/3, for consideration of brotherly affections he deeded 144 acres to his brother, Hatch. After several conveyances to other brothers and various sales, he retained 250 acres which became his dwelling-plantation. His wife was

Mary ——— who was probably of Blackman lineage—at least three of her grandchildren carried that name.

Children of John and Mary Dent

1. John Dent. *q.v.*
2. Mary Dent married ——— Newberry.
3. Hatch Dent married twice. *q.v.*
4. Sarah Dent married ——— Clark.
5. Tabitha Dent married Walter Moreland.
6. Anne Dent married Charles Davis.
7. Bennett Dent, *d.s.p.*

In 1778 as John Dent of John he demonstrated his loyalty to the Colonies by subscribing to the Oath of Allegiance and Fidelity to the State of Maryland in Charles County before Judge John Parnham.

His last will and testament was dated December 21, 1788, and probated in Charles County on August 22, 1791, by James Waters, Peter Dent and Charles Allbrittain.

To son John 200 acres of "Dent's Inheritance" and a moiety of "Dent's Addition" to be laid off from the dwelling-plantation.

To daughter Mary Dent 100 acres of "Dent's Addition", slaves, the water and hand mill.

To son Hatch Dent residue of the landed estate.

To daughters Tabitha Moreland, Anne Davis, Mary Dent and Sarah Dent, residue of the personal estate.

HATCH DENT³

1707-1781

Hatch Dent, one of the sons of John Dent 2d, was born about 1707, being aged 61 in 1768, according to his deposition. About 1728, he married Anne ———, whose parentage has not been established, but who must have been of a socially prominent family, as his children intermarried with some of the most representative families of New Port Hundred and Trinity Parish. Two of his sons distinguished themselves in the war for Independence and one took Holy Orders.

His dwelling-plantation was on a portion of "Dent's Inheritance". He was a staunch communicant of Trinity Parish where the birth of each child was duly registered.

Children of Hatch and Anne Dent

1. John Dent, born Dec. 2, 1729, married Margaret Dyson. *q.v.*
2. Mary Dent, born Apr. 13, 1732.
3. Catherine Dent, born Nov. 4, 1734.
4. Anne Dent, born May 7, 1737, married Jan. 11, 1757/8, Thomas Swan.
5. Lydia Dent, born Dec. 22, 1739.
6. Esther Dent, born May 10, 1742, married Thomas Dyson.
7. Rhoda Dent, born Nov. 4, 1744, married July 1, 1764, William Turner.
8. Hezekiah Dent, born Aug. 2, 1747, married Nov. 9, 1769, Catherine Poston and Martha Burch. *q.v.*
9. Hatch Dent, born May 20, 1751, married Judith Poston. *q.v.*

On January 25, 1754, he petitioned His Lordship to resurvey 145-acre portion of "Dent's Inheritance" and "Dent's Gore" of 34 acres which had been granted him in 1749 and with some vacant unclaimed land all contiguous and to incorporate them into a single plantation. The request was granted and letters patent were issued to him for "Dent's Pallace" (*sic*) of 209 acres, lying on the edge of Gilbert's Swamp and to be held of the Manor of Calverton.

In November 1755, when he conveyed "Dent's Palace", of 100 acres, to John Dent, no wife waived dower. In some manner he was related by blood or marriage to Sarah Maddox who died about 1763. In that year he and Samuel Turner approved as kinsmen the inventory of her estate.

During the Revolution he subscribed to the Oath of Allegiance and Fidelity to the State of Maryland in Charles County before Judge Parnham who took the oaths in Newport Hundred.

He died in 1781, but failed to name all his children in his last will and testament. The witnesses were Bennett Dyson, Michael Dent and Thomas Dent. He devised the dwelling-plantation "Dent's Pallace" to his son, Hezekiah, providing he permitted his mother the use of it during widowhood. Other heirs mentioned were: his son Hatch Dent; daughter Rhody Turner; the heirs of his son John Dent; and two grandchildren, Anne Dyson and Margaret Dyson.

His personal estate was appraised at £286/7/9, with Hezekiah Dent as the executor. Hatch Dent and Peter Dent approved as the kinsmen, while Thomas Dent and Michael Dent were the sureties. At the final account with the court in July 1782, credit was claimed and paid to Henry Dent for the tuition of Margaret Dyson.

MICHAEL DENT³

171-1795

Michael Dent, son of John, was born in what is now Trinity Parish, Charles County, which embraced Newport Hundred. His share of the parental estate by the good graces of his brother was 140 acres of "Dent's Inheritance" which became his dwelling-plantation.

Neither the family nor the Christian name of his wife has been established, but the family names of Manning and Turner are found among the names of his descendants. She was probably a daughter of John and Mary Manning upon whose estate he was a bondsman in 1735.

Children of Michael Dent

1. Joseph Manning Dent married Mary ———. *q.v.*
2. Victory Dent, died spinster.
3. John Dent, later of Franklin Co., N. C. *q.v.*
4. Michael Dent, later of Franklin Co., N. C. *q.v.*
5. Catherine Dent.
6. Mary Dent married Benjamin Edwards.
7. Elizabeth Dent.

In 1778 he took the Oath of Allegiance and Fidelity to the State of Maryland before Judge John Parnham, and was active in the religious work of Trinity Parish, serving as a Warden at one time.

His will, dated February 1, 1786, was probated in Charles County on October 12, 1795, by Hezekiah Dent, John Cooksey and Peter Dent.

To son Joseph Manning Dent the dwelling-plantation "Dent's Inheritance" providing that he permitted his sister, Victory, its use during her lifetime.

To sons John and Michael £50 each.

Residuary estate to be divided among children Joseph, Catherine and Victory providing they pay their sisters Mary and Elizabeth 5 shillings each.

Executors—Joseph Manning Dent and Victory Dent.

The last will and testament of his spinster daughter, Victory, was probated in Charles County during 1802. She made bequests to Elizabeth Dent and John Turner Dent, children of her brother, Joseph Manning Dent, and the following of no stated kinship—Sarah Dent, Pricy Dent, Lawson Dent and Hezekiah Dent. She appointed Elizabeth Dent the executrix who later became Mrs. Joseph Watson.

On September 11, 1806, Benjamin Edwards and Mary his wife assigned

to Mary M. Dent all their rights to a portion of "Dent's Inheritance" and "Dent's Addition" and also right of preemption to the same which Michael Dent died seized.

In January 1806, John Dent, of Franklin County, North Carolina, stated that he had discovered a defect in the will of his father, Michael Dent, late of Charles County, Maryland, who devised to his son, Joseph M. Dent, all land possessed by the father in Maryland, namely "Dent's Inheritance" and "Dent's Addition". John Dent furthermore declared that the land was not intended for him nor his heirs and that he wished that the heirs of his deceased brother, Joseph M. Dent, enjoy "his father's intentions". The statement was witnessed by John Dent Sr. and Michael Lawson Dent.

In February 1806, Michael Dent, of Franklin County, North Carolina, assigned to Mary M. Dent, all his interest in the two tracts of land. He granted power of attorney to Thomas Dent of William, and the latter was to execute a bond in the name of the said Michael Dent to Elizabeth Watson, Sarah Dent, Pricey Dent, Michael Lawson Dent, John Turner Dent, Hezekiah Dent and Joseph Manning Dent granting them a true title to the land.

BENJAMIN DENT³

17— 1778

Benjamin Dent, son of John, was born at "Dent's Inheritance" in Newport Hundred. Before 1750 he married but research fails to identify definitely his wife. In March 1749, he purchased of Robert Cadle, of Charles County, 100 acres of "St. Stephen's Coleman".

Children of Benjamin Dent

1. Gideon Dent married Mary ———. *q.v.*
2. John Brewer Dent married Priscilla Dent. *q.v.*
3. Benjamin Dent married Anne ———. *q.v.*
4. Shadrack Dent.
5. Zachariah Dent married Elizabeth ———. *q.v.*
6. Titus Dent married Mary ———. *q.v.*
7. Chloe Dent married Feb. 17, 1767, Joseph, son of James and Susannah Waters.
8. Kezia Dent married ——— Burroughs.
9. Johanna Dent married ——— Higdon.
10. Susannah Dent.

His last will and testament, dated July 5, 1778, was admitted to probate in Charles County on August 15, 1778.

To wife unnamed the dwelling-plantation consisting of 143 acres of Dent's Inheritance" and 43 acres of "Turner's Forest" during life, then to son Gideon, but in the event of the death of Gideon without issue then to the testator's son John Brewer Dent.

To son Benjamin realty but in the event of his death without issue, then to son Shadrick.

To son Zachariah 96 acres of "Turner's Forest" and a portion of "Church Over".

To son Titus "St. Stephen's Coleman".

To daughters Chloe Waters, Johannah Higdon, Kezia Burroughs and Susannah Dent slaves and other personalty.

JOHN DENT OF GEORGE³

17— 1779

John Dent, son of George and Elizabeth (Short) Dent, was born in Charles County. On July 23, 1748, he conveyed to William Cooksey, of Charles County, "Simpson's Supply" which had been possessed by his maternal grandfather, George Short, and which had been willed to his mother in 1720. Inasmuch as no wife waived dower at the sale, it is probable that his marriage did not occur until after that date. His widow was Mary ———.

Children of John Dent

1. Judith Dent married ——— Wood.
2. Elizabeth Dent married James Chapplear.
3. John Dent married Verlinda Beall. *q.v.*
4. Rebecca Dent.
5. Susan Dent married Feb. 9, 1783, William Burroughs.
6. Tabitha Dent.
7. Sarah Dent married Dec. 16, 1777, George Harrison.

The last will and testament of John Dent, dated October 13, 1778, was proved in St. Mary's County on August 12, 1779. To his wife, Mary, he devised the dwelling-plantation "Freestone's Point" during life then to their only son, John. To his daughters Judith Wood, Elizabeth Chapplear, Rebecca Dent, Susan Dent, Tabithy Dent and Sarah Harrison various legacies after the decease of his widow.

PETER DENT OF NEWPORT³

17— 17—

Peter Dent, son of George, was born like most of his kinsmen in Newport Hundred on "Dent's Inheritance". He was generally styled Peter Dent of Newport to distinguish him from the Peter Dents of Whitehaven.

In 1750 he crossed swords with Judge Robert Yates over a forthcoming election in Charles County in which Lee, Wilson and Middleton were the candidates. Yates called him "damn'd rascal, damn'd liar and impudent fellow" and said that he should never get his "ends at the election". Captain Allen Davis, then a Justice of the Peace, was in some manner involved and invited him to his house and offered him a drink and asked him to attend his muster the Saturday following. He attended the muster and Davis advised him that if he voted for William Middleton and not Mr. Wilson, he would protect him from the wrath of Yates. Dent showed his independence and voted for Mr. Wilson. At the June Court the Sheriff took him into custody on a bench warrant and accused him of abusing Mr. Yates. He, however, had witnesses to prove that Yates had first insulted him. Davis stated that the court would not permit bond, but would find him 1000 lbs. tob. Dent appealed to the court.

Peter Dent seemed to have been somewhat careless about his promises, but perhaps he realized that it was better to change his mind before it was too late. One Elizabeth Dent, certainly a cousin but whose identity is not established, took his love-making rather seriously and sued him for breach of promise. She appointed John Hall her attorney and swore that in 1759 "being a person unmarried" Peter Dent made love and faithfully promised to marry her. She had always been ready and willing from the time of his promise, but now he refuses to contract matrimony. She furthermore stated that she had been humiliated, hurt, injured and brought to ridicule and that her humiliation was worth £91 Sterling.

Peter who denied the allegations was represented by Thomas Johnson Jr. and stated "he was not guilty in manner and form as the said Elizabeth hath complained". The Judge was rather unsympathetic to Peter's predicament, but declared that the unwedded maiden was not injured to the extent of £91 Sterling, but only £40.

Peter Dent did marry, but it is not known whether he wedded the injured Elizabeth and thus saved the £40 or contracted matrimony with some other maiden of the country side.

Allen Davis of the election controversy of 1750 later sued him for what cause it is not known, but in order to meet the judgement, Peter Dent sold or mortgaged various chattles to his brother Michael Dent for 1439 lbs. tob. and £1/15/-.

His estate consisted of a 150-acre portion of "Dent's Inheritance" and "Dent's Enclosure". At the census of 1775 he was domiciled in Newport West Hundred, and was the only Peter Dent in that hundred of age to

be so listed. He was also styled Peter Dent Sr., so it is assumed that he had a son and namesake. There was only one Peter Dent listed in Charles County at the 1790 census with three males over 16, one under 16, two females and five slaves.

On May 3, 1779, Peter Dent bought of Samuel Cooksey Barron and Millicent his wife a 62-acre portion of "Hard Bargain". On September 4, 1805, under warrant of September 1804, Peter Dent was issued a certificate of survey on "Dent's Hazard", of 226 acres which included 178 acres of "Dent's Inheritance" and 22 acres of "Dent's Neglect", originally granted to Peter Dent, son of Peter, on August 11, 1796, and also the land incorrectly surveyed as part of Samuel Cooksey Barron's "Hard Bargain", as bounding "Simpkin Coat Back" and "Hard Bargain" and running to the dividing line between the said Peter Dent and Gideon Dent.

On July 28, 1821, Peter Dent, of Charles County, conveyed to John H. D. Posey in consideration of love and affections and for the support of the said Peter Dent during his natural life "Dent's Hazard", of 226 acres.

THOMAS DENT³

17—1774

Thomas Dent, son of George, was born about 1730 presumably in Charles County. According to family tradition his first wife was Elizabeth Edwards, of St. Mary's County. He was the first member of the Dent family to return to St. Mary's County, the home of his emigrant grandfather, where he established his seat in St. Andrew's Parish.

Children of Thomas Dent

1. George Dent married Elizabeth Mills. *q.v.*
2. William Dent married Margaret Rettea Smoot. *q.v.*
3. Henry Dent married Charity Cox. *q.v.*
4. Thomas Dent married Rebecca Chappellear. *q.v.*

He died intestate in St. Mary's County. The administration bond was granted to his widow, Mary Ann Dent, on February 26, 1774, with John Edwards and Benjamin Dent as the sureties.

The personal effects were inventoried on March 10, 1774, with John Dent and Chloe Dent approving the valuation as the kinsmen. It was passed at court on June 10, 1774, with Mary Ann Dent as the administrator.

The records of St. Andrew's Parish show that Mary Ann Dent, the wife (sic) of Thomas Dent, died May 30, 1823, aged 89 years.

JOHN DENT⁴

17— 1799

John Dent, son of John and Mary Dent, was born at the ancestral estate "Dent's Inheritance" in Newport Hudred. The name of his wife has not been proved, but some descendants state that her Christian name was Violetta.

Children of John Dent

1. John Chilton [Shelton] Dent. *q.v.*
2. Priscilla Dent married John Brewer Dent. *q.v.*

In March 1778, he swore Allegiance to the State of Maryland before Magistrate Joshua Sanders.

His will, dated January 16, 1799, was probated in Charles County, on November 4, 1799. He devised his entire estate to his son, John Shelton Dent, inasmuch as he had already provided for his daughter, Priscilla. He appointed his brother, Hatch, the guardian of his minor son, John Shelton.

The inventory of the personal effects was filed at court on December 10, 1799, by his executor, Hatch Dent. Mary Newbury, John Chapelear and Charles Gill approved the valuation, but no distinction was made between kinsmen and creditors. Mary Newberry, however, is placed as his sister. The final account was passed by the court in 1806, at which time it was shown that Zephaniah Waters and James G. Watson were the bondsmen.

HATCH DENT⁴

17— 1816

Hatch Dent, son of John and Mary Dent, was born at "Dent's Inheritance", Charles County. An undocumented source stated that he married Susannah Edwards. His widow, however, was Elizabeth ———.

Children of Hatch Dent

1. Elizabeth Anne Dent married ——— Turner.
2. Sophia Dent married Jesse C. Cook.
3. John Blackman Edwards Dent married Maria Turner. *q.v.*
4. Theodore Dent, *d.s.p.* 1816.
5. Uriah Hatch Dent, removed to the State of Georgia.
6. Susan Juliet Dent.
7. Llewellyn Marshall Dent.
8. Stoughten Warren Dent married Lydia Watts and Mary Catherine Smoot. *q.v.*
9. Mary Emeline Dent, born 1808, died spinster 1828.

During the Revolutionary War Hatch Dent served as a private in the Militia company of Captain Clarkson of Charles County.

His son, Theodore, predeceased him, making his last will and testament on January 3, 1816, and being proved on February 24, 1816, by Alexander Dent and William Good. To his sisters Elizabeth Ann Turner he bequeathed \$250.00, to Sophia A. Cook \$250.00, to Susan Juliett Dent \$100.00 and Mary Emeline Dent \$100.00. To his brother, John Blackman Edwards Dent, he bequeathed all his wearing apparel, and to his brother, Hatch, one of his slaves, and all his land in the State of Georgia. Llewellyn Marshall Dent, another brother, was willed \$50.00 and the like amount to his brother, Stoughton Warren Dent. Jesse C. Cook and his brother, Hatch Dent, were named as executors.

On January 19, 1816, he executed his last will and testament, which was not probated in Charles County, until February 28, 1819, by James Waters, Alexander Dent and Nathan Smoot Dent.

To wife Elizabeth one-third of "Dent's Inheritance" and "Dent's Addition", and personalty.

To daughters Elizabeth Anne Turner, Sophia Cook, Susan Juliett Dent, and Mary Emeline Dent Personalty.

To son John Blackman Edwards Dent all realty except that given to the testator's wife.

To sons Theodore Dent, Hatch Dent, Llewellyn Marshall Dent, Stoughton Warren Dent legacies.

Executor—son John Blackman Edwards Dent.

The inventory was taken on May 14, 1816, while the final account was rendered the court on November 14, 1817, by his son and executor, John Blackman Edwards Dent, showing a balance of \$1694.65.

JOHN DENT OF HATCH⁴

1729-1778

John Dent, son of Hatch and Anne Dent, was born December 2, 1729, in Newport Hundred. According to the register of Trinity Parish, he married on February 3, 1757/8, Margaret Dyson. She was the daughter of Thomas and Margaret Dyson and was made an heir in the will of her grandfather, John Dyson, whose estate was distributed in 1760. They were communicants of Trinity Parish where their children were baptized and their births registered.

Children of John and Margaret (Dyson) Dent

1. Thomas Hatch Dent, born July 23, 1760, married Anne Trott. *q.v.*
2. Anne Dent, born Sept. 2, 1762, died in N. C.
3. Rebecca Dent, born Dec. 2, 1764.
4. James Dent, born Jan. 15, 1767.
5. Catherine Dent, born Mar. 15, 1769.
6. John Baptist Dent, born June 1, 1771. *q.v.*
7. Providence Trinity Dent, born 1772, died young.
8. Esther Dent, born Nov. 6, 1773.
9. Townsend Dent, born Jan. 25, 1776, married Mary Hightower. *q.v.*
10. Aaron Dent, born Mar. 1, 1778.

He died intestate. Letters of administration upon his estate were issued to his widow on August 1, 1778, with the request that Hezekiah Dent be joint-administrator. Peter Dent of Newport and Oliver Burch were the sureties. The inventory was taken on August 24, 1778, with an appraisement of £1080/11/1. Thomas Hatch Dent and Anne Dent signed as the kinsmen. The final distribution was made on May 29, 1779, when the balance or £483/8/3 was distributed among the widow and nine named representatives.

At the tax list of Charles County in 1783, Margaret Dent, his widow, was seized of 153 acres of land lying in Bryan Hundred, with eight in her immediate family.

CAPTAIN HEZEKIAH DENT⁴

1747-1792

Hezekiah Dent, son of Hatch and Anne Dent, was born August 2, 1747, in Newport Hundred of Charles County. He married first on November 9, 1769, Catherine, born June 24, 1755, daughter of William and Priscilla Poston. The only issue of this union is believed to be Alexander Poston Dent, born March 22, 1773, who died shortly afterwards and whose birth was responsible for the death of the young mother. She died April 6, following.

On February 13, 1774, in Trinity Parish, he took as his second wife, Martha, daughter of John and Mary Ann Burch. As a maiden on July 18, 1770, she shared in the distribution of her father's estate. In May 1800, her mother deeded her daughter, Martha Dent, for natural love and affections certain negro slaves. The Burch family had settled early in Maryland perhaps not as early as the Dents and pursued the life of tobacco planters, but they were never conspicuous for their public service.

Children of Hezekiah and Martha (Burch) Dent

1. Hatch Dent, born Feb. 6, 1775, removed to Rapides Parish, La., and there by license on Dec. 18, 1806, married Jeannette, daughter of Ensemont Meuillon.
2. Hezekiah Dent, born May 30, 1777, married Lareno Milburn. *q.v.*
3. John Chapman Dent, born Feb. 20, 1780.
4. Orpah Burch Dent, born and died 1782.
5. Martha Dent [married William Matthews].
6. Wilfred Dent, died Rapides Parish, La., 1829, aged 40, unmarried, tomb in Pinneville Cemetery.
7. Anne Dent married John Chilton Dent and Thomas O. Bean. *q.v.*

The Revolutionary War was fully one year old when Hezekiah Dent received his commission on October 22, 1777, as First Lieutenant of Captain Isaac McPherson's Company of the Lower Battalion of Charles County Militia. On May 28, 1779, he was raised to Captain of the 12th Battalion of Militia.

His dwelling-plantation in Newport Hundred consisted in 1783 of 50 acres of "Cooksey's Duckpond", 90 acres of "Simkin's Coat Back" and 209 acres of "Dent's Palace" on which his dwelling stood. In that year he had seven at home in his family. At one time he was the State inspector of tobacco at Pile's Warehouse. Hatch Dent and Peter Dent were his bondsmen in the amount of £1000.

His last will and testament, dated May 10, 1792, was proved in Charles County on December 31, 1792. The witnesses were Michael Dent, Gerard Wood and the Rev. Hatch Dent. He provided for his wife, Martha, and the following children—Hatch, Hezekiah, John Chapman, Martha, Wilfred and Ann.

His son, Hatch, removed to Rowan County, North Carolina, when in March 1796, he purchased a negro from Mary Ann Burch and also one from his mother. It is certain that his mother accompanied him and his brother to North Carolina, but returned to Maryland perhaps when he made plans to settle in the Bayou country of Louisiana. His mother was back in Maryland by February 1796, when she appeared at court and stated that she had imported eight negroes from North Carolina for the purpose of settling in Maryland. They were all natives of Maryland and always resided there until they were carried to North Carolina several months ago.

In April 1802, styled Martha Dent Sr., she received from Martha Ann Burch, presumably her sister, a negress and her two-month old child for a consideration of five shillings.

Her last will and testament was probated in Charles County on August 24, 1824, at which time it was noted that her son, Wilfred, to whom she

bequeathed a legacy, was absent from the State. Other heirs were daughter Anne and granddaughters Lucinda E. Dent and Emily Matthews.

On January 3, 1825, William Matthews gave his receipt which was recorded at court as follows: "Received of Thomas O. Bean one negro Boy named Mark being a legacy by Martha Dent, deceased, to my daughter Emily Matthews". Lucinda E. Dent and Wilfred Dent likewise gave their receipts for their legacies.

During the War of 1812 their son, Wilfred, served in a "Consolidated Regiment" of Louisiana Militia and undoubtedly fought at the battle of New Orleans.

REV. HATCH DENT⁴

1751-1799

Hatch Dent, son of Hatch and Anne Dent, was born May 20, 1751, in Newport Hundred, Charles County. On December 17, 1778, he married Judith, born January 10, 1758, the daughter of William and Priscilla Poston, of Charles County.

Children of Hatch and Judith (Poston) Dent

1. Lucinda Dent, born Jan. 22, 1781, married Walter Dyson.
2. Mary Dent, born 1782, died spinster 1811.
3. Priscilla Ann Dent married William Good.
4. William Hatch Dent married Catherine Brawner. *q.v.*
5. Catherine Amelia Judith Dent.
6. Juliana Chapman Dent married Nathan Dent. *q.v.*
7. Priscilla Ann Dent, born and died 1781.

William Poston died testate in Charles County, but conflict arose over his landed estate thereupon the Court of Chancery appointed William Poston, Jr., the trustee to dispose of the land. The latter settled in Washington County, Virginia, and from that place on January 3, 1799, he sold to the Rev. Hatch Dent the following tracts: "Good Will Enlarged", of 253½ acres; part of "Wittan Enlarged"; "Vacancy" and "Johnson's Purchase". In the deed the Rev. Hatch Dent was given a guarantee against all claims of the devisees of the said William Poston Sr.

When it became inevitable that armed conflict was eminent between Maryland and England, Hatch Dent was among the first of the descendants of Captain John Dent who sought a commission. On July 9, 1776, he was appointed a Second Lieutenant of the Flying Camp of Smallwood's Battalion. The outfit embarked from various ports in Maryland, but mostly from Annapolis, to the head of the Elk and then marched over land to drive the British from New York City which was then a hot bed of

Toryism. He participated in the early campaign around New York where the Maryland troops not only sustained heavy casualties, but shared the defeat. About 400 Marylanders were killed and many were taken prisoners and incarcerated on Long Island for a considerable period among whom was Lieutenant Hatch Dent and General Sullivan. He was exchanged on April 20, 1778, and upon his return to Maryland, he was offered and accepted a commission in the First Maryland Regiment.

His devotion to the Established Church was verdant and after the Revolution when the middle classes and the evangelical minded were leaving the ancient Episcopal Church and turning to the sensationalism of the Methodists with their meeting and praise houses, he remained loyal to the traditional faith of his ancestors. In the absence of the parish priest he often read the services at Trinity Church near Newport and even preached sermons.

The Maryland Diocesan sent him as a delegate to the 1784 convocation of the Episcopal Church. Citing an ancient canon of the Church he was ordained without formal seminary training by Bishop Seabury the next year or 1785.

He resided for a time in Rowan County, North Carolina, where some of his kinsmen had settled from Maryland and worked jealously in organizing the Episcopal Church in that section for those who had been raised in its tenets and wished to remain loyal to its teachings. After much success in his missionary work in a section of Carolina which was being opened up for settlement, he returned to his native Maryland.

On January 16, 1797, he appeared at court and stated that he had brought eleven negroes from North Carolina into Maryland not for sale but for settlement.

On April 27, 1797, he was called by the vestry of All Faith's Parish, St. Mary's County, where he officiated until his death. Along with his parish duties he served as principal or Headmaster of Charlotte Hall Academy, one of the oldest educational institutions in the State and contributed much to raising the educational standards of that school and in the training of future Maryland citizens. On the grounds of the school was Ye Coole Spring which was possessed by his ancestor, Captain John Dent, back in the sixteen hundreds.

His last will and testament was written in September 1799. He appointed his wife, Judith, the executrix and provided for the following children—Lucinda Dyson, Mary Dent, Priscilla Anne Dent, Catherine Amelia Judith Dent, and Julianna Chapman Dent.

His unmarried daughter, Mary Dent, died testate in 1811, and devised her mother land in North Carolina. The other heirs were her brother, William Hatch Dent, and sisters—Lucinda Dyson, Priscilla Anne Dent, Catherine Amelia Judith Dent, and Julianna Chapman Dent.

His widow, Judith Dent, executed her last will and testament on September 30, 1811, but it was not probated in Charles County until March 23, 1814. She divided her estate among her surviving children—William Hatch Dent, Priscilla Anne Dent, Catherine Amelia Judith Dent, Julianna Chapman Dent and Lucinda Dyson.

The Episcopal Chapel on the campus of Charlotte Hall is a memorial to the one-time priest and headmaster of the school. After his death a commemorative tablet was unveiled at the chapel.

“Rev. Hatch Dent, son of Hatch and grandson of John Dent of Yorkshire, England, one of the early settlers of the Province of Maryland, was born May 1757, died December 30, 1799. An honored officer in the Army of the Revolution of 1776 and an Eminent Teacher and Minister of the Church. Ordained by Bishop Seabury in 1785”.

The knowledge of the Dents coming from Yorkshire was still well-established in the minds of the family after more than 150 years, but some discrepancies occur. He was not the grandson, but the great-grandson of John Dent of Yorks and the parish register lists his birth as 1751 and not 1757.

ENSIGN JOSEPH MANNING DENT⁴

1750-179-

Joseph Manning Dent, son of Michael and his wife, was born about 1750 at “Dent’s Inheritance”, Charles County. In 1775 as Constable of Newport West Hundred, he conducted the census for that district. At the beginning of the Revolutionary War he enlisted in the Militia and served for a time as First Sergeant. On May 28, 1779, he was commissioned an Ensign of the 12th Battalion. His services consisted briefly of guarding the coast of Southern Maryland from the plunder of the British vessels which were constantly in the Potomac and Chesapeake Bay.

Before the close of the war he married Mary Manning.

Children of Joseph and Mary Manning Dent

1. Elizabeth Dent married Joseph Watson.
2. John Turner Dent. *q.v.*

3. Michael Lawson Dent married Sarah Heard. *q.v.*
4. Joseph Manning Dent. *q.v.*
5. Sarah Dent married Thomas Dent. *q.v.*
6. Priscilla Dent

At the 1783 tax list, Joseph Manning Dent was the head of a family in Newport Hundred, with four members at home, but without land. Undoubtedly he was living upon a portion of the parental estate, the dwelling-plantation of which he was to inherit at the death of his father, according to the latter's will of 1786. The first census of 1790 showed that he was still a resident of Charles County. Before the probation of his father's will in 1795, however, he had died intestate. Inasmuch as his father failed to alter his will, several complications presented themselves at the settlement of the estate.

On January 4, 1806, John Dent, of Franklin County, North Carolina, by deed recorded in Charles County, relinquished all claims to the plantation of his father, Michael Dent, in order that the heirs of his brother, Joseph Manning Dent, might enjoy the same. On January 16, same year, Benjamin Edwards and Mary his wife deeded to Mary M. Dent a portion of "Dent's Inheritance", their share of the landed estate of Michael Dent.

His widow continued to live in Charles County until about 1816, when she joined her children in Wilkes County, Georgia. She was apparently preparing to travel South, when in August 1816 she assigned her rights and interests in "Dent's Inheritance" and "Dent's Addition" to John B. E. Dent and Hatch Dent.

Her last will and testament, dated July 1822, was probated at Washington Courthouse, Wilkes County, Georgia, on November 4, 1822, with her son, John Turner Dent, as the executor. She named the following children—Michael Lawson Dent, John Turner Dent, Joseph Manning Dent, Sarah Dent and Pricy Dent.

On March 14, 1824, Joseph Manning Dent conveyed to his brother, Michael Lawson Dent, his interest in the estate of Joseph M. Dent late of Maryland, deceased, and Mary M. Dent, late of Georgia, deceased.

JOHN DENT^a

17—1806

John Dent of Michael, was born at "Dent's Inheritance", Charles County, Maryland. Prior to the Revolutionary War or during its early stages he removed with his brother, Michael, to the Halifax District of Franklin County, North Carolina. He was active during the conflict, and

it is shown that he received for services rendered £18/5— from William Hunt, Treasurer of Granville County.

On January 4, 1806, as a resident of Franklin County, he relinquished all claims in a portion of "Dent's Inheritance" and "Dent's Addition" willed to his deceased brother, Joseph Manning Dent, by his father, Michael Dent, in order that the heirs of Joseph Manning might enjoy the devise. Consequently, as John Dent Sr. he conveyed all his rights in his father's estate to Mary Manning Dent and appointed Henry Dent, of County, his attorney.

ENSIGN MICHAEL DENT⁴

17— 18—

Michael Dent of Michael, was born at "Dent's Inheritance", Charles County, Maryland. Prior to the Revolution or at its beginning he with his brother John settled in the Halifax District of Franklin County, North Carolina. On August 28, 1778, he applied for a land grant and was subsequently awarded on October 13, 1784, a 640-acre plantation on Richland Creek. Likewise, on August 28, 1780, he filed an additional claim and was granted 320 acres on the waters of Little River, the certificate being dated October 13, 1784.

During the Revolution Michael Dent served as an Ensign of the State Militia and was attached to the Company of Captain Robert Goodloe. In 1777 he received £10 from Jacob Blount, Paymaster of the Militia, and in April 1780, he received £12/10/— for expenditures under "Sundries furnished and cash paid the militia of North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia". And on August 31, 1781, he was the recipient of £12 from the Comptroller Office of North Carolina.

According to the 1800 census, he was the head of a family in Franklin County, North Carolina, both him and his wife being more than 45 years of age. At home were a boy and girl between the ages of 10 and 16, and one girl less than 10.

A Captain Michael Dent served from Georgia in one of the early Indian Wars, and under the Lottery Act of 1819 received land acquired from the Creek and Cherokee Indians.

GIDEON DENT⁴

17— 1814

Gideon Dent, son of Benjamin, was born like many of his kinsmen on "Dent's Inheritance". At the death of his mother, he received a portion

of the home place, where his seat was maintained. In 1783 he was taxed for 143 acres of "Dent's Inheritance" and 10 acres of "Cooksey's Barren". In that year he had three in family. His wife was Mary ———.

Children of Gideon and Mary Dent

1. Theophilus Dent, born 1781, married Drucilla Waters.
2. Anne Dent.
3. Martha Dent married Rezin Smoot.
4. Mary Dent.
5. Cecilia Dent married Thomas E. Harrison.

During the Revolutionary War he served as a private in the company of Captain Clarkson of the Charles County Militia.

On June 28, 1800, Gideon Dent filed a bill in chancery stating that Henry Burch agreed to assign him four tracts of land which had been devised him by Oliver Burch subject to the life interest of Ann Burch and the single life of Kezia Burch. He passed his bond for £10,000 and had paid nearly all the purchase money, but Henry Burch had departed for Kentucky and had not made a formal deed of conveyance. Furthermore, the life tenants were committing much waste.

In August 1802, the transaction was consummated, when Henry Burch and Susanna his wife, of Nelson County, Kentucky, deeded him four tracts containing 399 acres as being a part of "Church Over", portion of "Bowling's Desire", "St. Stephen Coleman", portion of "Smith's Purchase" which had been devised to the said Henry Burch by Oliver Burch. Power of attorney was granted to John Brewer Dent to complete the legal conveyance.

The last will and testament of Gideon Dent was dated August 5, 1808, and proved in Charles County on February 15, 1814.

To son Theophilus Dent the dwelling-plantation, but if he died without issue then to the testator's daughter Anne Dent.

To daughter Anne Dent negroes.

To daughter Martha Smoot the tract leading from Bryan Town and intersecting the road leading to Portobacco.

To daughter Mary Dent "Higdon's Chance" and "Dent's Slip".

To daughter Cecilia Dent the plantation whereon Charles Allbrittian was then living.

To wife Mary the full control over the estate during life.

According to a codicil made on October 9, 1811, his daughter, Cecilia Harrison, was devised "Simpson's Supply", of 52½ acres, which had been purchased from Humphrey and Sarah Hill in addition to what he had already willed her.

JOHN BREWER DENT⁴

1759-1838

John Brewer Dent, son of Benjamin Dent and his wife, was born May 9, 1759, in Trinity Parish, Charles County. According to family tradition, he married his cousin Priscilla Eliza, daughter to John Dent of Newport, whose wife is stated to have borne the Christian name of Violetta. He purchased much realty in Charles County during his life time and at his death possessed a large landed estate.

Children of John and Priscilla (Dent) Dent

1. John Benjamin Dent married Catherine ———. *q.v.*
2. Violetta Dent married Alexander Dent. *q.v.*
3. Susannah Attawa Dent married Zachariah Dent. *q.v.*
4. Priscilla Eliza Dent married Jan. 6, 1847, William Keech.
5. Levi Dent married Pamela ———. *q.v.*
6. [Alfred W. Dent]. *q.v.*

During the Revolutionary War John Brewer Dent gave service as a private in the militia company of Captain Thomas Hanson Marshall, of Charles County.

In November 1810, he and his wife Priscilla conveyed "Brawner's Risque", of 180 acres, and part of "Trifle" to their son, John Benjamin, for natural love and affections. In July 1817, he purchased from Theodore Dent Waters, heir-at-law of Edward Waters "Wilful Destruction" and a portion of "Waters' Addition". In November 1833, he bought several tracts of land possessed by Alexander Dent which had been sold by the latter's trustee for the satisfaction of debts.

The *National Intelligencer* of May 1, 1838, carried the following notice: "On the 24th ultimo at his residence in Charles County Mr. John Brewer Dent [died] in his eighty-seventh year". He was interred at "Good Will", and his headstone reads "In Memory of John B. Dent of Maryland who departed this life April 24, 1828, aged 79 years, 5 months and 9 days." Perhaps the incorrect age was given to the press.

His last will and testament, dated April 26, 1834, was probated in Charles County on September 3, 1838. He devised his sons, John Benjamin Dent and Levi Dent, "Johnson's Purchase", of 28 acres, but the greater portion of his realty was devised to his then unmarried daughter, Priscilla Eliza Dent, whom he named executrix. To his daughters, Violetta Dent and Susanna Attawa Dent, he bequeathed a legacy of \$500.00 each.

His widow died in Charles County during 1845. Her will, dated May

17, 1845, was probated on June 24, following. She bequeathed her entire estate to her spinster daughter, Priscilla Eliza Dent, who was named executrix. Her headstone reads "Priscilla Dent of Maryland died 1845 aged 84".

BENJAMIN DENT⁴

17—1835

Benjamin Dent, son of Benjamin, was born at "Dent's Inheritance", Charles County. During the Revolutionary War he served as a private in the local militia of his native county. He married at least twice, but the name of his first wife is not on record. His daughter, Jane, was the only issue of this union to survive, as in his will he named William Benjamin, Wilson, Eleanor and Susan Cecilia as children "begotten by present wife Anne".

Children of Benjamin Dent

1. Jane Dent married ——— Penn.
2. William Benjamin Dent.
3. Wilson Dent married Elizabeth ———.
4. Eleanor Dent.
5. Susan Cecilia Dent.

His last will and testament was dated January 20, 1835, and presented for probate at a court held in Charles County on March 26, 1835, by R. H. Carver, George A. Perrie and A. D. Smoot.

To wife Anne all real and personal property during life, then to the following legatees.

To grandchildren Benjamin Dent Penn, Rezin Manual Penn and Elizabeth Jane Penn personalty, but in the event that the said grandchildren died before the age of 21 years, then to the testator's daughter Jane.

To son Wilson Dent negroes.

To son William Benjamin Dent the plantation "Stephen Coleman", of 100 acres.

To daughters Eleanor Dent and Susan Cecilia Dent personalty.

Executors—sons Wilson Dent and William Benjamin Dent.

ZACHARIAH DENT⁴

17—1828

Zachariah Dent, son of Benjamin, was born at the ancestral estate "Dent's Inheritance" in Charles County. During the War for Independence, he served as a sergeant in the Militia of his native county, and in

1778 he subscribed to the Oath of Allegiance and Fidelity to the State of Maryland. His seat was on "Turner's Forest" in Bryan Town Hundred. He married Elizabeth ———.

Children of Zachariah and Elizabeth Dent

1. William S. Dent.
2. George R. Dent.
3. Zachariah Dent married Attawa Dent. *q.v.*
4. Catherine Dent married Benjamin Swann.
5. Elizabeth Sophia Dent married Feb. 26, 1829, Benedict L. Higdon.

Zachariah Dent died testate in Charles County, his will being dated June 21, 1828, and probated on December 27, 1828.

To daughter Elizabeth Sophia Dent the dwelling-plantation being portions of "Turner's Forest" and "Church Over".

To son Zachariah Dent the plantation on which he was then living being portions of "Burches Reserve", "Chesham" and "Boarman's Manor".

To daughter Catherine Swann negro slaves.

To sons William S. Dent and George R. Dent \$1.00 each.

To wife Elizabeth certain personalty in the care of son Zachariah.

Residue of the estate to Zachariah, Catherine and Elizabeth.

His personal estate was appraised on February 28, 1828, at \$3,398.12, including 15 negro slaves. Zachariah Dent and Benjamin Swann filed as the executors.

After his death or in August 1834, Zachariah Dent Jr. and his mother, Elizabeth Dent, filed a bill of complaint in the High Court of Chancery against Elizabeth Sophia and her husband, Benedict Higdon.

His widow, Elizabeth Dent, died intestate in 1829, and her son, Zachariah, settled her estate, which from the inventory was rather negligible.

In August 1834, Zachariah Dent Jr. filed an additional bill of complaint in the High Court of Chancery against his brother-in-law and sister, Benedict Higdon and Elizabeth Sophia his wife. They had previously obtained judgement against Zachariah Dent Jr., as the executor of his father's will, for \$278.27. In the bill it was stated that Zachariah Dent Sr. had died testate and bequeathed his daughter, Elizabeth, certain property subject to the life interest of the widow who died in the spring of 1830 *sic*. It was also stated that after the death of the widow, Elizabeth Higdon and her husband had dissipated the estate. They resided at the home place with

the widow and after her death they claimed and took possession of the tobacco and other crops on the land.

Like all family quarrels carried to court it brought out several interesting facts and family connections. John F. S. Higdon and John Thomas Higdon were brothers of Benedict Higdon. Theophilus Dent declared that he had heard Mrs. Elizabeth Dent declare before her death that Benedict Higdon had "stripped her of everything and had carried off wheat, meat, corn and tobacco". Wilson Dent stated that the daughter, Elizabeth Higdon, had the keys to the chest where the money was kept belonging to the widow. Zachariah Dent Jr. furthermore swore that he was not residing with his father or mother at the time of their death, but that he had been present in his mother's home when his sister had taken money from the chest. Dr. Stoughon W. Dent was another witness. The lawsuit also showed that the dwelling-plantation lay at Centreville, and that Elizabeth Sophia Dent had married Benedict L. Higdon on February 26, 1829. Furthermore, Catherine Swann with her brother, Zachariah, and sister, Elizabeth, were residuary heirs after the death of the widow.

TITUS DENT⁴

17—1811

Titus Dent, son of Benjamin, was born at "Dent's Inheritance". During the Revolution he served as a private in the County Militia. His wife was Mary ————. According to the 1783 tax list, he was the head of a family in Trinity Parish, seized of 50 acres of "St. Stephen Coleman". He died intestate in Charles County, the inventory of his personal estate being made on October 1, 1811. The final distribution was made by his widow, Mary Dent, in 1816 and divided between her and the only child, Leonard G. Dent. *q.v.*

JOHN DENT⁴

1753-1828

John Dent, son of John and Mary Dent, was born in St. Mary's County, Maryland, in or about 1753. He disposed of his personal estate there and prior to the Revolutionary War, he settled in the Lower District of Frederick County which in 1776 became Montgomery County. There he married Verlinda Beall, born about 1758, the daughter of Robert and Hannah Beall, of that prolific Scotch family identified early with Prince Georges County. His wife was made an heir in the will of her father in 1788. According to the provisions of the instrument, her husband John Dent was

permitted to dwell upon the land on which they were then living and was named joint-executor with the widow, Hannah Beall.

Children of John and Verlinda (Beall) Dent

1. Robert Dent married Mary Hays. *q.v.*
2. Hannah Dent married Andrew Foreman. License Mont. Co., Aug. 17, 1802.
3. Rebecca Dent.
4. Lucy Dent, died spinster.
5. Mary Dent married Daniel Gill.
6. Asa Dent married Martha, daughter of Notley Hays. License Mont. Co., Mar. 20, 1804.
7. Nancy Dent married William Foreman.
8. Elizabeth Dent, born 1705, died 1878, married Thomas Foreman.
9. John Dent, born 1797, died 1876, married Margaret Snyder and Sarah Hopkins.

During the Revolutionary War he was a member of the militia company of the 29th Battalion. During 1778 he subscribed to the Oath of Allegiance and Fidelity to the State of Maryland in Montgomery County. The 1783 tax list shows that his estate was appraised at £460, including eleven negro slaves.

A chancery suit was filed in 1791 over a plantation of Robert Beall by which it was stated that Robert Beall contracted in 1787 to sell to Cephas Beall and Lloyd Beall "Beckwith's Range", of 304 acres, and executed his bond. Robert Beall died shortly thereafter or in 1788 and left a widow who was then deceased. The heirs of the deceased were John Dent and Verlinda his wife, Basil Beall, Kinsey Beall, Benjamin Beall, Zadock Beall, Axey Beall, and Alexander Adams and Sarah his wife, all of Montgomery County—also Middleton Beall a minor and Rezin Beall Offutt, a minor and grandchild of the deceased's daughter Lucy Offutt. The will permitted John Dent and his wife to reside on the land and the widow was to have possession of the home place during life. The court ratified the permission to sell.

On November 10, 1791, John Dent and Verlinda his wife, Alexander Adams and Sarah his wife, Thomas Scott and Achsa his wife, Basil Beall, Kinsey Beall, Benjamin Beall, Zadock Beall, Middleton Beall and Zephaniah Offutt guardian of Rezin Beall Offutt conveyed all their interest in "Beckwith's Range" to Lloyd Beall and Cephas Beall. All were residents of Montgomery County except Cephas Beall who was then of Washington County.

In 1805 John Dent disposed of his landed estate in Maryland and removed to St. Clairsville Township in Belmont County, Ohio. On his farm he conducted a school until his death in 1828. His wife departed five years earlier.

GEORGE DENT⁴

1756-1842

George Dent, son of Thomas and Elizabeth Dent, was born December 21, 1756, in All Faith's Parish, St. Mary's County. At the beginning of the War for Independence, he was a student at Charlotte Hall Academy, when he and other boys formed a militia company at the academy under Captain Henry Sothoron. Later, he enlisted on May 25, 1778, in the Maryland Line and served under Captain Carberry. With about 70 volunteers and draftees, he was marched by Captain Carberry and Sergeant King to Annapolis. After a few days at that port they embarked in small boats under Sergeant King for the head of the Elk. Upon their landing, Lieutenant James, of Baltimore, took command and marched them to headquarters in New Jersey.

They heard the firing in the distance during the battle of Monmouth, but failed to reach the battle area in time for actual combat. While in New Jersey, he, Jonathan Woodburn and Norman Burroughs were transferred to Captain John Davidson's Company in order that they may be with their friends, Richard Hall and Henry Spalding, of St. Mary's County. His company marched to White Plains, had frequent skirmishes with the British and then marched with a detachment to strengthen the fort at West Point. He was discharged on April 3, 1779.

Upon his return to St. Mary's County, he volunteered under Captain Mills, Lieutenant William Cartwright and Ensign Henry Swann to guard the coast in the lower portion of the county. He also had service under Lieutenant Benjamin Edwards, at which time he marched to Llewellyn's Warehouse on the Potomac and guarded the shore for about two weeks. Within two months he was taken ill and was prevented from being present with his company at Yorktown.

About 1790 he married Elizabeth Temperance Mills, born about 1767.

Children of George and Elizabeth (Mills) Dent

1. William Dent. *q.v.*
2. Hezekiah Dent married Martha Matilda Hammett. *q.v.*
3. Mary Anne Dent married John Duke Jr. License St. M. Co., Feb. 10, 1824.

4. Elizabeth Dent married Joseph Burroughs. License St. M. Co., Feb. 3, 1816.
5. Elizabeth Temperance Dent married Feb. 2, 1816, John Amory Burroughs.
6. Harriet Dent married George Burroughs. License St. M. Co., Feb. 14, 1814; settled in Kentucky.

In 1810 when he petitioned the court to perpetuate the boundaries of his plantation "Scegby", he was styled Captain George Dent. A commission was appointed by the court. The land lay at the "door of the parish church" in All Faith's Parish. Thomas Greenfield, aged 37 years in 1811, stated that about 25 years ago he was present on a commission when a stone was fixed near Beaver Dam Branch at Indian Creek a little west of the road from All Faith's Church towards Benedict. Other depositions were: those of Henry Burroughs, aged about 41, son of Hezekiah; Hanson Burroughs, aged about 29 years, son of Hezekiah; Henry Burroughs referred to an old well which had been shown him by Richard Sothoron, deceased, who was the grandfather to the present Dr. William Sothoron, and that it was the boundary between his land and that of James Burroughs and John Johnson Sothoron.

In 1818 when Congress passed an act to pension impoverished veterans of the Revolution who needed the aid of their Government for support, George Dent applied early in that year. He stated that he received a discharge at Middlebrook, New Jersey, in April or May 1779, from Captain Davidson. About one mile from camp he and his comrades met General Baron de Kalb. "He accosted us in the following manner. Where are you going soldiers? I being ahead told him we were going home. He asked me if we had been discharged. I told him we had and I gave him my discharge to look at. While looking at it his horse threw his head down which caused the discharge to be torn in two pieces. He remarked that it would answer, and I brought it home with me, but it has long since been lost or mislaid". He furthermore stated that he was known to three-fourths of the respectable men of his county and referred to the Rev. John Claxton, the rector of his parish for character.

The General Assembly of Maryland on January 30, 1829, passed a bill to pay George Dent, of St. Mary's County, semi-annually the one-half pay of a private for his service during the Revolutionary War.

His last will and testament, dated November 14, 1839, was presented for probate by his executor in St. Mary's County on December 14, 1842.

To son William the dwelling-plantation "Urquhart's Gift".

To son Hezekiah Dent and daughter, Mary, the wife of John Duke Jr. certain realty.

To grandchildren G. S. M. Burroughs, Mary A. E. Burroughs, Charles C. Burroughs, John M. Burroughs, Elizabeth Burroughs, Rebecca Burroughs, William T. Burroughs, Catherine C. Burroughs, Jane M. Burroughs, all children of Joseph B. Burroughs.

To daughter Elizabeth T. Burroughs, wife of John A. Burroughs, personalty.

To his granddaughter, Elizabeth Burroughs, the negroes which George and Harriet Burroughs carried with them to Kentucky.

WILLIAM DENT⁴

1756-1816

William Dent, son of Thomas and Elizabeth (Edwards) Dent, was born 1756 in Charles County. About 1777, he married Margaret Rettea Smoot, the daughter of Thomas Smoot and Abigail his wife, of Charles County, who was born December 13, 1748, and thus was senior to her husband.

Children of William and Margaret (Smoot) Dent

1. Alexander Dent married Violetta Dent. *q.v.*
2. Thomas Dent married Sarah Dent. *q.v.*
3. Jane Dent.
4. Catherine Dent.
5. Nathan Smoot Dent married Julianna Dent. *q.v.*

During the Revolutionary War, William Dent served as a private in the Militia of Charles County under Captain Clarkson. During 1778 he subscribed to the Oath of Allegiance and Fidelity to the State of Maryland under Joshua Sanders.

His dwelling-plantation was "Smith's Reserve" and "Simkin Come Back" situated in Newport Hundred of Charles County. On April 2, 1803, he deeded to his son, Alexander Dent, for natural love and affections a portion of the ancestral estate "Dent's Inheritance", lying on the north side of the Main Swamp which emptied into Pile's Freshlet at the head of Dent's Mill Dam, also a portion of "Dent's Addition", lying on the edge of Gilbert Swamp.

His last will and testament, dated July 28, 1816, was proved in Charles County on August 21, 1816.

To wife Margaret Rettea his entire realty during life, then the dwelling-plantation "Dent's Inheritance" and "Dent's Addition" to son Alexander.

To son Thomas \$1.00, but all children of his son, Thomas, born of his wife, Sarah, were to inherit "Simkin's Comeback" of 100 acres, but in the event that son, Thomas, wished to remove to another State, then the land could be sold and a home bought in the new State.

To daughter Jane all land whereon she was then living and to share it equally with his daughter Catherine.

To son Nathan Smoot Dent "Smith's Reserve" of 100 acres.

The bond of his executors, Alexander Dent and Nathan Smoot Dent, was filed October 8, 1816, with John Blackman Edwards Dent and Thomas Harrison Reeder as sureties.

HENRY DENT⁴

17— 1815

Henry Dent, son of Thomas and Elizabeth (Edwards) Dent, was born in Charles County. During the War for Independence he served as a private in the militia company of Captain Clarkson of Charles County. In March 1778, he swore Allegiance and Fidelity to the State of Maryland before Judge Joshua Sanders. He died in or about the year 1815.

His wife and ultimate widow was Charity who in October 1819 was made the guardian of her two minor sons. On October 20, 1819, the court authorized a commission to estimate the annual value of the estates of Thomas Samuel Dent and Henry Story Dent, wards of Charity Dent.

On May 24, 1820, Thomas Harrison Reeder, trustee, granted to Henry Story Dent and Thomas Samuel Dent, in accordance with an Act of the Assembly authorizing the Orphans' Court on petition of Lydia Manning, widow of Francis S. Manning, to sell an undivided tract containing 75 acres as laid out for Major William Boorman and also part of "Bantry", of 20 acres, as purchased by Henry Dent, father of Henry Story Dent and Thomas Samuel Dent, his only children and heirs-at-law.

Henry Story Dent resided for a time presumably in Warren County, Mississippi, but returned to Maryland. On September 8, 1839, he certified at court that he brought one male slave from Warren County to Charles County, Maryland, the month before and that it was his intentions to become a citizen of Maryland.

THOMAS DENT⁴

17— 18—

Thomas Dent, son of Thomas and Elizabeth (Edwards) Dent, was born sometime before 1765. On October 14, 1799, he secured license in

St. Mary's County to marry Rebecca, the daughter of James and Elizabeth (Dent) Chappellear. Her bachelor brother, Nathan Chappellear, died in St. Mary's County during 1807, and by his will he bequeathed \$30.00 to his sister Rebecca Dent "which her husband has in his hands", who also shared in the residuary estate. The will of her father, James Chappellear, was proved in St. Mary's County on October 11, 1808, when it was stated that his heirs all lived in the State of Virginia. His daughter, Rebecca Dent, was bequeathed \$100.00.

A complete list of the children of Thomas Dent and his wife has not been found, however, Thomas E. Dent who married Susan Hammett is proved as a son. (*q.v.*)

Thomas Dent settled in Frederick County, Virginia, where he was domiciled in 1810—the first census available for Virginia. In that year he was the head of a family with a wife, born sometime between 1765 and 1784, three females and one male, all born between 1800 and 1810.

In 1810 Thomas Dent and Rebecca his wife, of Frederick County, Virginia, acknowledged the receipt of \$50.00 from James Harrison as the administrator of the estate of James Chappellear. In 1820 he received negroes from the estate of John Chappellear, late of St. Mary's County, Maryland, and at the same time he appeared as attorney for James Riley, of Winchester, Virginia, whose infant children—Elizabeth Anne, James Previs, Addison Briscoe, and Cassandra Mary Riley—were entitled to a portion of their uncle, John Chappellear's estate. At the 1820 census he was the head of a family in Frederick County, Virginia, with seven children at home.

JOHN CHILTON DENT⁴

1792-1816

John Chilton [Shelton] Dent, son of John and Anne Dent, was born on October 12, 1792, in Trinity Parish, Charles County. After the death of his father, he was placed under the guardianship of Hatch Dent of John. The guardian bond, dated July 12, 1800, was assured by William Dent of Thomas and James Waters Jr. He married his cousin, Anne Dent, the daughter of Captain Hezekiah Dent and Martha Burch his wife. One child was born—Martha Anne Dent who married James Alexander Keech.

He was undoubtedly the John C. Dent who served in the First Maryland Regiment, recruited in Charles County for service in the War of 1812.

Dying intestate, his personal estate was inventoried on June 11, 1816, with Wilfred Dent, as the administrator. The balance was distributed on

February 1, 1819, to Anne Dent, the widow, and the only heir, Martha Anne Dent. The widow married secondly Thomas O. Bean. On April 11, 1820, the court ordered Thomas O. Bean and his wife, Anne, to account for the estate of their ward, Martha Anne Dent. On June 26, 1821, as an attorney for Martha Dent, he gave his receipt for \$1500.00 as one of the distributees of Perregrine Chunn, late of Fauquier County, Virginia, deceased.

The marriage of "Miss Anne Dent" to James A. Keech was performed on December 20, 1836, by the rector of Trinity Parish at the residence of T. O. Bean, whom we know was her step-father.

Anne (Dent) Dent-Beane and her second husband, Thomas O. Beane on December 23, 1850, conveyed to the former's daughter, Martha Anne their dower interest in certain portions of the landed estate of the late John Chilton Dent. The deed recited that John C. Dent died intestate leaving a widow, Anne, who after the death of her husband intermarried with Thomas O. Beane, and that John C. Dent at the time of his death possessed in fee a plantation being portions of "Dent's Inheritance" and "Dent's Addition", containing about 200 acres. Upon the death of John C. Dent his widow became entitled to her dower interest and the remaining portion of his landed estate became the inheritance of his sole heiress, Martha Anne Dent. The heiress married James A. Keech [sometimes written as James E. Keech] who subsequently conveyed the land to one William S. Keech, thereupon Thomas O. Beane and his wife for the natural love and affections which they held and maintained for Martha Anne Keech nee Dent made a deed of gift of the widow's dower interest. It was furthermore stated that the proceeds from the sale should be possessed by James A. Keech on condition that he, James A. Keech, assign to Thomas O. Beane for the sole use and benefit of his step-daughter, Martha Anne Keech, certain portions of "Dent's Inheritance" and "Dent's Addition" of 173 acres which James A. Keech had purchased from William K. Dent and Jane his wife.

At the 1850 census for Charles County, Thomas O. Beane gave his age as 56 years, whereas his wife, Anne, gave her age as 58 years. Their landed estate was appraised at \$20,000.00.

JOHN BLACKMAN EDWARDS DENT⁵

17— 1829

John Blackman Edwards Dent, son of Hatch and Susanna (Edwards) Dent, was born at "Dent's Inheritance" in Newport Hundred, Charles

County. He married Maria, the daughter of William and Kitty Turner, who shared in the distribution of her father's estate on February 10, 1818.

Children of John B. E. and Maria (Turner) Dent

1. Anne Edwards Dent.
2. John Blackman Edwards Dent, deceased by 1842.
3. Kitty A. Dent, deceased by 1842.
4. Emily Anne Ricketts Dent married Hanson Posey.

During the War of 1812, he served as a sergeant of the First Maryland Regiment which was recruited in Charles County. At one time he was a vestryman of Trinity Parish.

On April 8, 1816, the Orphans' Court of Charles County made him the guardian of his sister, Mary Ameline, aged 9 years the 16th instant, and records indicate that he was the guardian to his younger brothers, Llewellyn Marshall Dent and Stouten Warren Dent.

In 1826 he was made the trustee for the estate of Ann Newberry upon her intended marriage to Elijah Goodrich, inasmuch as that Ann was the only child and heir-at-law of her mother, Mary Newberry, to 100 acres of land which had been devised to Mary Newberry by her father, John Dent.

He died intestate in Charles County. Letters of administration were issued to his brother, Dr. Stouten Warren Dent, who returned the inventory of the personal estate to the court on November 10, 1829. At an account filed by him on May 24, 1842, he earmarked \$80.00 for the funeral and medical service of John B. E. Dent Jr. and \$40.00 for the same for Kitty A. Dent, both children of John B. E. Dent Sr.

At his late residence on April 7, 1830, the rector of Trinity Parish united in marriage Emily Anne Ricketts Dent and Hanson Posey.

STOUTEN WARREN DENT, M.D.⁵

1806-1883

Stouten [Stoughton] Warren Dent, son of Hatch and Susannah (Edwards) Dent, was born January 15, 1806. He married first Lydia B. Watts who died on January 12, 1831, the same day as her only child. His second wife was Mary Catherine, born in or about 1818, daughter of George and Mary Smoot, of Charles County, who became the mother of his surviving children.

Children of Stouten and Mary Catherine (Smoot) Dent

1. Stouten Hubert Dent, born Oct. 30, 1833, married Anna Beall Young. *q.v.*
2. Philomel Dent born and died 1836.
3. Lydia Susanna Dent married Frederick L. Dent. *q.v.*
4. Mary Sophia Dent, born Aug. 1840, died June 23, 1890, married James Madison Freeman.
5. George Hatch Dent, born June 21, 1843, died Mar. 2, 1918, removed to Ala., married Helen Young, Eufaula, Ala.
6. Emma Catherine Dent, born July 20, 1846, died May 19, 1850.
7. Julia Columbia Dent, born Aug. 10, 1849, died Mar. 6, 1910, married William J. Naylor.
8. Emma Smoot Dent, born July 14, 1852, died Dec. 28, 1924.
9. Warren Fellmore Dent, born Mar. 4, 1855, died Jan. 28, 1925, married Mary Elizabeth Wellborn, of Eufaula, Ala., daughter of Maxmilian Bethune Wellborn and Susan Julia Dent who was daughter of John Horry Dent.
10. Ella Dent, born Aug. 25, 1858, died Wash., D. C. Apr. 1940.

He was a well known physician in Southern Maryland of the last century. In 1831 he was a vestryman of Trinity Episcopal Church at Newport, but he apparently joined later the Chapel Folks or Methodists, as he was buried in a now abandoned Methodist graveyard near Newtown. He administered in 1835 on the estate of his brother, Llewellyn Dent, and in 1840 on the insolvent estate of Rezin Smoot.

On May 21, 1859, he and Mary C. his wife and Theophilus Smoot and Amelia C. his wife, all of Charles County, assigned to Alexander Smoot all their interest in the landed estate which Mary Smoot, late of Charles County, died seized, namely, "Higdon's Chance" and "Dent's Inheritance", of 414 acres.

His plantation lay in Allen's Fresh District of Charles County, where he was domiciled at the 1850 census. Among the children in his household at that time were Catherine Dent, aged 22 years, and Hugh B. Dent, aged 18 years. A granddaughter who had the family Bible had no knowledge of their being his children.

He died on October 7, 1883. His last will and testament, dated August 17, 1882, was admitted to probate in Charles County on October 30, 1883, by George B. Lancaster, J. E. Ware and R. S. Corry.

To wife Mary Catherine the entire estate, but his unmarried daughters, Emma Smoot Dent and Ella Dent, were to have a home with their mother in the parental dwelling, and at her death they were to share equally in the realty.

Mention was made of his three married daughters and their consorts, namely, Lydia S., wife of Frederick L. Dent; Mary, wife of James Madison Freeman; and Julia C., wife of William J. Naylor.

Executors—son-in law James Madison Freeman and daughter Emma Dent.

His widow died on October 6, 1894, and was interred beside the remains of her deceased husband.

THOMAS HATCH DENT⁵

1760-1817

Thomas Hatch Dent, son of John and Margaret (Dyson) Dent, was born about 1760 in Trinity Parish, Charles County. In 1778 he subscribed to the Oath of Fidelity and Allegiance to the State of Maryland in Charles County before Magistrate Joshua Sanders. He also served as a private in the militia of Charles County during the Revolution.

In 1790 as the eldest son of his deceased father, he was the head of a family in Charles County, but shortly afterwards he removed to Rowan County, North Carolina, where on November 21, 1796, he secured license to marry Anne Trott. His bondsmen were John Rogers and Samuel Trott.

Children of Thomas Hatch and Anne (Trott) Dent

1. Josiah Dent, removed West.
2. John Henry Dent, removed West.
3. Thomas Hatch Dent.
4. Rebecca Dent married Joseph Owens.
5. Dorcas Dent married William Heathman.
6. Sarah Dent married John Todd.
7. Elizabeth Dent married Scott Trott.
8. Anne Dent married Rand Watson.
9. Margaret Dent married ——— McAtee.
10. Catherine Dent married ——— Brown.
11. Wilfred Dent married Rachel Smith.

On February 10, 1794, he purchased from Charles Burroughs and Anne his wife, all parties being of Rowan County, North Carolina, 102 acres of land lying on the south side of Second Creek.

He died in Rowan County during 1817, and was interred near South River in that County. His will, dated March 12, 1817, was proved during September session of the court. He devised his wife, Nancy, the plantation during widowhood and granted his sister, Nancy, the privilege of residing with his widow during life. To his son, John Henry Dent, he bequeathed \$50.00. At the death or remarriage of his widow, the estate

was to be divided equally among all children except his son, Josiah. He appointed his wife and brother-in-law, Samuel Trott, the executors.

The will of his widow, Anne Dent, was dated April 21, 1828, and proved in Rowan County during November 1838, by A. C. Winders and Tabert T. Trott. She named her daughters Margaret Anne Dent, Elizabeth Dent and Nancy Dent, her son Thomas H. Dent, and granddaughter Clementine "now living with me". James Owens was appointed the executor.

JOHN BAPTIST DENT⁵

1771-1816

John Baptist Dent, son of John and Margaret (Dyson) Dent, was born on June 1, 1771, in Charles County, Maryland. He joined his older brother in North Carolina and there he died intestate. Letters of administration upon his estate were granted on May 25, 1816, by the court of Rowan County to David Fraly "the widow having relinquished her right". The bondsmen were Isaac Linster and James Kincaid.

TOWNSEND DENT⁵

1776-18—

Townsend Dent, son of John and Margaret (Dyson) Dent, was born January 25, 1776, at "Dent's Inheritance", Charles County, Maryland. He removed to Rowan County, North Carolina, and there on May 12, 1797, he executed a bond to marry Mary Hightower. John Rogers and Turner Pinkston were the sureties. In 1816 he was one of the constables of the county.

HEZEKIAH DENT, M.D.⁵

1770-1809

Hezekiah Dent, son of Captain Hezekiah Dent and Martha his wife, was born about 1770 in Charles County. He studied medicine under a local doctor and practised his profession in St. Mary's County. In that county he secured license on June 16, 1803, to marry Larena Milburn. Their only daughter, Lucinda Evelina Dent, married Thomas Loker, by license issued in St. Mary's County during 1826.

His last will and testament, dated December 1809, was probated in St. Mary's County on March 6, 1810. He bequeathed his mother, Martha Dent, several negroes and other personalty, and released his brother, Hatch Dent, from the loan made to him. Another debt due the testator, he willed to his brother, Wilfred. His realty was devised to his "little daughter"

Lucinda Evelina, at twenty-one, and his share in his father's estate at the death of his mother was to be divided—one-third to his widow and two-thirds to his daughter. In addition he made a legacy of \$500.00 to his wife.

His widow was to enjoy his daughter's estate until the latter attained the age of twenty-one, and he referred to the legacy of \$1000.00 bequeathed his daughter, Lucinda, by her grandmother Mrs. Anna Milburn, of St. Mary's County. In the event of the death of his daughter, then the entire estate to his widow. He named as executors his wife, Robert Milburn and John Mackall Jr.

His widow was apparently displeased with the dying bequests of her husband, and demanded her legal thirds. On January 24, 1815, according to license in St. Mary's County, she married Peter M. Thompson. Robert Milburn as the "surviving executor" rendered his sixth account to the court on June 13, 1817.

WILLIAM HATCH DENT, M.D.⁵

1787-1818

William Hatch Dent, son of Hatch and Judith (Poston) Dent, was born January 22, 1787, in Charles County. During the War of 1812, he served as a private of the First Maryland Regiment raised in Charles County. He studied medicine and practiced in both Charles and St. Mary's Counties. His wife was Catherine, born October 10, 1789, the daughter of Henry Brawner, of Southern Maryland.

Children of William H. and Catherine (Brawner) Dent

1. Henry Hatch Dent married Anne Maria Adlum. *q.v.*
- 2.. Josiah Dent, born 1817 married Kate Linthicum. *q.v.*

He died intestate. The inventory of his personalty was taken on May 10, 1820, in Charles County, with Catherine Dent as the administratrix. The distribution of the balance was made on July 13, 1823, to the widow and the two named children.

The following inscriptions are found in All Faith's Churchyard, St. Mary's County. "Dr. William Hatch Dent, born January 22, 1787, died February 1, 1818. Katherine Brawner, wife of Dr. William Hatch Dent, born October 10, 1789, died April 24, 1860". Her last words were: "I may not live to see the spring flowers, but I shall soon see more glorious things. It is nothing to die, Jesus can make the dying bed feel soft as downy pillows are. While on his breast I lay my head and breathe my life out sweetly there".

JOHN TURNER DENT⁵

17— 18—

John Turner Dent, son of Joseph Manning and Mary Dent, was born in Charles County, Maryland. He joined his brother, Michael Lawson Dent, in Wilkes County, Georgia, where he is found as the head of a family at the census of 1820. In that year he was between the ages of 26 and 45, likewise his wife. Other members of his household were a male female under 10 years, and a female between 16 and 26. He owned three slaves. In 1831 he was named as the executor of the estate of Jane Stathan. During the War of 1812 he served as a sergeant in the First Maryland Regiment commanded by Colonel Hawkins.

CAPTAIN MICHAEL LAWSON DENT⁵

1780-1847

Michael Lawson Dent, son of Joseph Manning and Mary Dent, was born about 1780 at "Dent's Inheritance", Charles County, Maryland. In 1803 he was named in the will of his aunt, Victory Dent, of Charles County. He removed to Wilkes County, Georgia, and there on October 15, 1807, he secured license to marry Sarah Heard. According to her descendants, she was born about 1784, and was the daughter of Jesse and Judith (Wilkerson) Heard. Her father had been a captain in the Virginia forces during the Revolution and had removed to Georgia prior to 1784. He was reputed to be the son of Steven Heard, an Irishman, and Mary Faulkner his wife.

Children of Michael and Sarah (Heard) Dent

1. Mary S. Dent married ——— Binns.
2. Anne Dent married Lorenza Biggers.
3. Joseph Manning Dent married Frances ———.
4. Alexander Dent married Martha ———.
5. Richard Dent.
6. Margaret Anne Dent married ——— Mullen.
7. Robert Lawson Dent.
8. John Michael Lawson Dent.
9. William Hatch Dent.
10. Caroline Dent married James Biggers.

He served in the early Indian Wars of the South and for his participation he shared in the Lottery Act of 1819, by which he received land taken from the Creek and Cherokee Indians. On March 3, 1824, he was

one of the bondsmen for John Rich when he administered on the estate of Margaret Dyson, late of Wilkes County.

By 1840 he had removed to the opened lands in Muscogee County, Georgia, where he died. His will, dated June 11, 1847, devised the dwelling-plantation as well as certain personalty to his wife during life, then to his minor son, William Hatch Dent, placing him under the guardianship of his elder brother, Joseph Manning Dent. Richard, another minor, was placed with John Michael Dent, with the understanding that Richard receive sufficient schooling. Negroes were bequeathed to the following children: Mary S. Binns; Elizabeth Biggers; Margaret Ann Mullen; Richard Dent; Robert Lawson Dent; and Alexander Dawson Dent. A codicil bequeathed \$50.00 to the widow of John H. Dent.

JOSEPH MANNING DENT⁵

17— 1822

Joseph Manning Dent, son of Joseph Manning and Mary Manning Dent, was born in Maryland. He served as a private in the First Maryland Regiment with his brother, John Turner, commanded by Colonel Hawkins, during the War of 1812. He joined his brothers in Georgia and in one of the early Indian Wars he served under his brother, Captain Michael Dent. For his services he participated in the Georgia Land Lottery of 1819, when the land taken from the Creek and Cherokee Indians in western Georgia was partitioned. He also shared in the lottery of 1821. He died in Wilkes County, and on November 5, 1822, Michael L. Dent was granted letters of administration on his estate.

JOHN BENJAMIN DENT⁵

1786-1841

John Benjamin Dent, son to John Brewer and Priscilla Dent, was born July 10, 1786, in Trinity Parish, Charles County. He married Catherine Petrie, born July 16, 1791, but whether Petrie was part of her Christian name or her family, it has not been determined during this research.

Children of John Benjamin and Catherine Dent

1. Catherine P. Dent.
2. Sarah E. Dent.
3. Rosanna L. Dent married William B. Townshend.
4. Elizabeth M. Dent married Joseph H. Jones. License St. M. Co., Dec. 2, 1850.

5. Valeria Cecilia Jane Dent, born Feb. 27, 1830, bap. Nov. 28, 1830.
6. Walter L. Dent married Elizabeth A. Posey. License Apr. 15, 1850, St. M. Co.
7. Alexander C. Dent, removed to Mississippi.
8. John F. Dent married Lillia D. Blackistone. License Jan. 14, 1839, St. M. Co.

During the Second War with England, John B. Dent served as a private in Colonel Hawkins' First Maryland Regiment.

According to the press, "Mrs. Catherine Dent, died 20 September 1838, in the 48th year of her age, consort of John Benjamin Dent of Charles County, Maryland".

He died on September 20, 1841; his last will and testament was proved in Charles County on November 23, 1841.

To daughters Catherine, Sarah, Rosanna, Elizabeth and Valeria the dwelling-plantation "Brawner's Rest" during their single lives as well as the mill, providing that they provided two years of education for their two youngest brothers, Walter and Alexander.

To the five above named daughters and sons, John, Walter and Alexander the residuary estate equally.

At Walnut Hill are the following tombstone inscriptions: "In Memory of Catherine Petrie Dent born July 16, 1791, died Sept. 20, 1838"; In Memory of John B. Dent born July 10, 1786, died Sept. 20, 1841"; In Memory of Elizah Mary 5th daughter of J. B. Dent and wife of Jos. H. Jones who departed this life June 3, 1853, aged 26 years and 1 mo."

In 1856 John F. Dent, V. C. J. Dent, Robert D. Posey, of St. Mary's County, Sarah E. Dent, Walter L. Dent, William B. Townshend and Roseanna L. his wife, of Prince Georges County, and John V. Posey, of Charles County, deeded to Theophilus Smoot all the realty then owned by the heirs of John Benjamin Dent, late of Charles County, deceased, except one-half acre of the family burying ground of the late John Brewer Dent. In 1858 Alexander C. Dent of the State of Mississippi conveyed his interest in the estate of the late John Benjamin Dent to Theophilus Smoot for a consideration of \$4500.00.

LEVI DENT, M.D.⁵

18— 1842

Levi Dent, son of John Brewer and Priscilla Dent, was born in Trinity Parish early in the eighteen hundreds. He became an esteemed doctor of

Southern Maryland during the horse and buggy days. His wife was Pamela Anne ———.

Children of Levi and Pamela Dent

1. Anna Elizabeth Dent, confirmed at Trinity in 1851, married Feb. 13, 1855, at Roman Catholic Church, Bryantown, Thomas Albert Carrico.
2. Robert M. Dent.
3. Verlina P. Dent married [Peter] Hatton.
4. Frederick L. Dent married Lydia Dent. *q.v.*
5. Walter Brewer Dent, bapt. Sept. 17, 1830, married Margaret E. A. Fowler. *q.v.*

On December 11, 1819, he purchased from Elkanah Waters and Elizabeth his wife "The Discovery" which had been patented by James Waters, father of the said Elkanah Waters, and also "Dement's Enlargement", both tracts containing 162 acres. James Waters died seized of the land and Levi Dent and his wife accepted the portions as their share of the estate.

On December 21, 1839, he purchased of William Matthews, Thomas O. Bean and Thomas Carrico, of Charles County, "Two Friends", "Poverty", "Outlet", and "Johnson's purchase" which William Good Sr., late of Charles County, died seized, leaving the following heirs—Calvert Good, Charles K. L. Good, Pamela who married Henry Love, Sarah Johnson, William Dent Good who was deceased leaving a widow, Priscilla A. Good and an infant son William Hatch Good, and Thomas G. Good, all residents of the District of Columbia, and the said William Good Sr. also left a widow, Sarah Good, who was then a resident of Charles County.

Dr. Levi Dent died intestate on June 14, 1842. On August 11, 1845, in accordance with a lawsuit instituted by Pamela A. Dent against Benjamin G. Harris and Martha E. his wife as the next best friend of her children, namely, Walter B. Dent, Frederick L. Dent, Robert M. Dent, Ann E. Dent and Verlinda P. Dent, the said Benjamin G. Harris and Martha his wife, conveyed to the said children "Cool Springs Mill" and plantation in St. Mary's County, which had been deeded to them by Julia I. Freer, George Chapelear and Elizabeth D. Chapelear in December 1838.

The widow, Pamela A. Dent, was the head of her household in 1850 with realty appraised at \$5,000.00, and the following children at home: Frederick, aged 19; Robert aged 18; Anna E. aged 15; and Priscilla Verlinda aged 14.

On May 2, 1853, Walter B. Dent and his wife Margaret, of Mil-

waukee, Wisconsin, conveyed to Pamela A. Dent, of Charles County, all their interest in "Two Friends", a portion of "Poverty", portion of "Outlet", and "Johnson's Discovery".

The widow died testate in Charles County, her will being dated April 18, 1872, and probated on May 19, 1874, by Thomas Carrico, Francis L. Higdon and Joseph R. Harrison.

To daughter Anna E. Carrico the farm of 200 acres lying in Gilbert Swamp which was given testatrix by her father unnamed, then occupied by the testatrix's son, Robert M. Dent.

To daughter Verlinda P. Hatton the land purchased of son Walter B. Dent, being one-fifth of the farm then occupied by Peter Hatton.

To son Frederick L. Dent silver plate.

To children of son Walter B. Dent \$25.00 each.

To son Robert M. Dent farm in his possession.

To grandson George T. Carrico a legacy.

Executor—Dr. Thomas A. Carrico.

ALFRED W. DENT⁵

1823-18—

Alfred W. Dent, placed as the son of John Brewer Dent and Priscilla his wife, was born in Maryland in or about the year 1823, according to the census schedule. Certainly before 1850 he settled in Cadiz Township, Harrison County, Ohio, where he is found as the head of a family in 1860, with realty appraised at \$3500.00 and personalty at \$1500.00. His household consisted of his wife, Sarah, aged 43, born in Ohio and the following children—Warren aged 8 and John B. Dent aged 6, both sons being born in the State of Ohio.

In December 1856, as of Franklin County, Ohio, he declared himself to be an heir of Priscilla E. Keech, of Charles County, Maryland, and conveyed all his interest in her estate to Mrs. Willie Jameson and Frederick L. Dent. His wife, Sarah C. Dent, joined him in the deed of conveyance.

ZACHARIAH DENT⁵

17—18—

Zachariah Dent, son of Zachariah and Elizabeth Dent, was born in or near Centreville, Charles County. It has already been shown that he sued his sister and brother-in-law over the estate of their mother in 1834. His wife was Attaway who is placed as a daughter of John and Priscilla Dent. In 1845 a case in chancery developed which proved that he had a daughter, Priscilla M. Dent, who married in March 1840, George T. Richards.

On August 23, 1845, John Hughes for his wards, Benjamin Swann, Samuel Swann, and Theophilus Swann filed a bill of complaint against Zachariah Dent, George T. Richards and the latter's wife, Priscilla. Zachariah Dent had filed bankruptcy in 1845 and had formerly been the guardian of his nephews—Benjamin, Samuel and Theophilus Swann—the sons of his sister, Catherine Swann by her husband Benjamin Swann. On July 15, 1844, Zachariah Dent had deeded land that had been willed him by his father and other lands consisting of 176 acres to his daughter, Priscilla Richards, as well as about \$5,000.00 worth of personal property.

It was stated that George T. Richards had come to Charles County in 1840, opened a tavern in Bryan Town, then became a merchant, and had no visible property upon his settlement in Charles County. He was born in Charles County, but was raised in Prince Georges County, had also lived on the Eastern Shore and in the District of Columbia. He was a brother to Samuel T. Richards and had filed bankruptcy in 1836.

The following vital statistics from Trinity Parish register undoubtedly pertain to Zachariah Dent, of Centreville:

1. Maria, daughter of Zachariah Dent and Attaway his wife, was buried September 2, 1830.
2. Sarah Maria, daughter of Zachariah Dent and Attaway his wife, was born May 8, 1833.
3. Zachariah Walter Brewer Dent, born 1834, was baptized Jan. 16, 1836, at the home of Zachariah Dent.
4. Zachariah Dent was confirmed 1831 by Bishop William Murray Stone.
5. Attaway Dent was buried Nov. 10, 1846.

LEONARD DENT⁵

18— 18—

Leonard G. Dent, son of Titus Dent and Mary his wife, was born in Trinity Parish, Charles County. His wife was Isabella C. ———.

Children of Leonard and Isabella Dent

1. Charles H. Dent. *q.v.*
2. Samuel C. Dent.
3. Isabella C. Dent married Robert R. Rye.
4. Mary Dent married George K. Posey.
5. Margaret Jane Dent.

The last will and testament of his widow, Isabella C. Dent, was dated January 27, 1850, and probated in Charles County on February 21, 1850,

by William Smith, Richard Price and Thomas Posey. She devised her son, Charles H. Dent, all realty and to the following children—Samuel C. Dent, Isabella C. wife of Robert R. Rye, Mary wife of George K. Posey, and Margaret Jane Dent—negro slaves. She appointed her son, Charles H. Dent, the executor.

The latter, Charles H. Dent, was the head of a family in Hill Top District of Charles County in 1850, and aged 22 years. In his household were Margaret Dent aged 18 and Samuel Dent aged 14.

He married and died testate in Charles County. His last will and testament, dated September 9, 1868, was proved at court on October 27, 1868, by J. E. Bowie, Luther L. Leland and J. T. Carpenter. He devised his son, William T. Dent, the plantation "Smith's Field", bought of Adam Posey, and provided for his son, Charles H., and daughter Matilda O. Dent. He referred to his brother, Samuel C. Dent, and appointed his brother-in-law, Robert R. Rye, as the executor.

ROBERT BEALL DENT⁵

1777-1853

Robert Dent, son of John and Verlinda (Beall) Dent, was born December 12, 1777, in Montgomery County, Maryland. In that county he secured license on April 4, 1801, to marry Mary Hays. She was born February 16, 1785, the daughter of Notley Hays.

Children of Robert and Mary (Hays) Dent

1. John Peter Dent married Rachel Helms.
2. William Dent, died young.
3. George Hays Dent married Marie Snyder.
4. Elizabeth Dent, born 1810, married Sylvester Creamer.
5. Sarah Dent married William Meek.
6. Robert Beall Dent, born 1815, died 1888, married Sarah Jane Chapman McMurray.
7. Mary Anne Dent, spinster.

On April 10, 1802, Robert Dent was deeded by Vachel Hall and his wife a portion of "Jeremiah's Park", lying on the north side of the road in Montgomery County, which had once been the property of William Hays, the grandfather of Mary (Hays) Dent. On December 5, 1805, he conveyed this tract to John Plummer. Mary Dent, his wife, waived dower. Shortly afterwards, he and his father settled at St. Clairville, Belmont County, Ohio. Robert taught school for a time, was one-time

magistrate, and the proprietor of the first merchandise establishment in St. Clairville. His wife died on February 16, 1840; he died on November 12, 1853, and was interred in Belmont County.

WILLIAM DENT⁵

18— 1869

William Dent, son of George and Elizabeth (Mills) Dent, was born in St. Mary's County. During the War of 1812 he served as a private in the 45th Maryland Regiment raised in St. Mary's County, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Ashton. The name of his wife has not been definitely proved, but she could have been the Sarah Johnson who married a William Dent in St. Mary's County by license issued on February 3, 1815.

Children of William Dent

1. Jane Maria Dent married James E. Heard. License St. M. Co., Aug. 1845.
2. Susan Elizabeth Dent.

In 1833 he appeared as the legal guardian of Jane Maria and Susan Elizabeth Dent, with Hezekiah Dent and James Hebb as his bondsmen.

His will, dated December 14, 1857, was probated in St. Mary's County on August 10, 1869. The dwelling-plantation was devised to his daughter, Jane Maria Heard, and made Tial Heard and Charles E. Dent the trustees for the estate of his daughter, Susan Dent. Later he made Charles E. Dent the sole trustee.

HEZEKIAH DENT⁵

1791 - 1863

Hezekiah Dent, son of George and Elizabeth (Mills) Dent, was born in or about 1791 in St. Mary's County. On October 16, 1821, he secured license in that county to marry Martha Matilda Hammett.

Children of Hezekiah and Martha (Hammett) Dent

1. James Thomas Dent, born Oct. 24, 1822.
2. Charles Dent married Sarah Hammett.
3. Susan Matilda Sophia Dent, born Dec. 27, 1828, married George Edward Hammett. License Nov. 9, 1847, St. M. Co.

4. Mary Elizabeth Dent, born 1831, married Clarke J. Durant. License May 15, 1851, St. M. Co.
5. George Bennett Dent, born 1833.
6. Hezekiah Dent, born 1835.
7. Martha Anne Dent, born 1840, married James T., son of John and Mary (Dent) Duke. License May 22, 1860, St. M. Co.

In 1842 Hezekiah Dent was appointed by the court the guardian of Martha Anne Dent, Susan S. Dent and Mary Elizabeth Dent. His sureties were William Dent and Mary Ann Duke. He died in St. Mary's County during 1863; his widow died in 1872.

ALEXANDER DENT⁵

17—1830

Alexander Dent, son of William and Margaret Rettea (Smoot) Dent, was born at "Dent's Inheritance", Charles County. He married his cousin Violetta, daughter to John Brewer and Priscilla Dent.

Children of Alexander and Violetta (Dent) Dent

1. John Dent married Sophia Herbert. *q.v.*
2. Henry Dent married Sarah Porter.
3. Deborah Dent married James Mankin. License Dec. 31, 1838, D. C.
4. Margaretta Dent married James Mankin. License Feb. 13, 1833, D. C.
5. Grace Ann Dent, *d.s.p.*

During the Second War with England Alexander Dent was Captain of a company in the First Maryland Regiment raised in Charles County.

In December 1813, Alexander Dent and Hatch Dent of John purchased from Henry Watson, of Monongalia County, Virginia, "Oneal's Desert" and "Dyson's Addition". The said Henry Watson was one of the co-heirs of Anne Watson whose maiden name was Ann Dyson and who first married Henry Swann, of Charles County, and after his decease married James G. Watson, formerly of Charles County, but then of Monongalia County, Virginia.

On March 29, 1817, Alexander Dent conveyed to John Blackman Edwards Dent "Oneal's Desert" and "Dyson's Addition" of 11 acres and "Partnership" of 3 acres, the "latter patented to the said Alexander Dent and a certain Hatch Dent of John father to John B. E. Dent on October 16, 1807. Violetta Dent, wife of Alexander, waived all dower rights.

On December 4, 1817, Alexander Dent and Nathan S. Dent, of Charles County, executors of the last will and testament of William Dent, "for

inasmuch as William Dent late of Charles County did on 28 July 1816 by will . . . to the children now born of my son Thomas and Sarah his wife . . . 100 acres of Simpkin Coatback, but if my son Thomas wishes to remove to any of the new States then my executors are to sell land for the benefit of the children". Consequently, the executors sold the land inasmuch as Thomas Dent was about to migrate to another State. Sarah Dent, wife of Thomas, acknowledged the conveyance.

The last will and testament of Captain Alexander Dent was dated September 1829, and probated in Charles County on March 18, 1830.

To wife Violetta during life one-third of the two plantations which was then occupied by the testator, one on the east side of Gilbert Swamp and the other on the west of the same swamp, and one-third of the personal estate.

Land purchased from Lucy and Bennett Dyson of Charles County and from Thomas M. Swann of St. Mary's County was to be sold to cover all indebtedness.

The residue of the realty was not to be sold or divided during the single lives of his daughters unnamed thereby giving them a livelihood.

Executors—Wife Violetta and son John Dent.

At probaton Nathan Smoot Dent testified that he prepared the will in writing and that it was approved by the testator.

In 1832 Violetta Dent, the relict of Alexander Dent, was listed as a communicant of Trinity Parish. The parish register also reported that Mrs. Mankin the daughter of Mrs. V. Dent was buried April 27, 1837 on the plantation of Brewer Dent.

The last will and testament of the spinster daughter, Grace Ann Dent, was dated April 2, 1845, and proved in Charles County on June 10, 1845, by William K. Dent, Priscilla E. Dent and Sophia A. Dent. She named her mother, Violetta Dent, as the executrix and bequeathed her negroes and all interest in the estate of her deceased father, Alexander Dent.

THOMAS DENT⁵

1778-1862

Thomas Dent, son of William and Margaret Rettea (Smoot) Dent, was born about 1778 in Charles County, Maryland. By the terms of his father's last will and testament of 1816, the children born to him and his wife, Sarah, were to inherit "Simkin's Comeback". This proviso was made owing to his well known dissipation. In or about 1800 he married his

cousin Sarah Dent, the daughter of Joseph Manning and Mary Dent.

Ten children were the result of his union, but the most prominent was William Barton Wade Dent.

Thomas Dent disposed of his Maryland estate and settled first in Pittsylvania County, Virginia. Later he removed to the village of Franklin in Heard County, Georgia. His wife died in 1859; he died in 1862.

The son, William Barton Wade Dent, was born at Bryantown, Charles County, Maryland, on September 6, 1806. In 1823 he was graduated from Charlotte Hall Military Academy and soon afterwards settled at Mallorysville, Wilkes County, Georgia. On February 22, 1827, he married Eliza Hinton at the residence of her father on Newford Creek, Wilkes County, where she was born. During the Creek Indian War, he was commissioned a colonel and was actively engaged in the campaign. In 1843 he was elected to the State Legislature, and five years later he served as judge of the inferior court of Coweta County. On November 4, 1853, he was elected to the 33d Congress, but was not a candidate for renomination in 1854. He died at Newnan, Coweta County, Georgia, on September 7, 1855, and was interred in Oak Hill Cemetery. His widow died on June 18, 1881.

NATHAN SMOOT DENT⁵

1791 - 18—

Nathan Smoot Dent, son of William and Margaret Rettea (Smoot) Dent, was born about 1791 in Charles County. He married his cousin, Julianna Chapman Dent, daughter to Hatch and Judith (Poston) Dent, of the same county.

Children of Nathan and Julianna (Dent) Dent

1. Alexander Dent, aged 29, in 1850, married Julianna ———. *q.v.*
2. Julianna Chapman Dent, bapt. Oct. 29, 1830, Trinity Parish.
3. Walter Chapman Dent, born Aug. 6, 1830, bapt. Oct. 29, 1830, confirmed Trinity Parish, June 29, 1847.
4. Hatch Dent, born Oct. 28, 1827.
5. Addison Dent.
6. Lucy Dent.
7. William Hatch Dent, bapt. Oct. 28, 1825.
8. Lucinda Jane Dent.

During the War of 1812 he served as a sergeant in Colonel Hawkins' First Maryland Regiment and later was commissioned an Ensign of the same regiment. In 1824 and perhaps other years he was Deputy Sheriff

for Charles County under Sheriff Townley Robey. At one time he served on the vestry of Trinity Parish.

On April 2, 1827, he and Julianna Chapman his wife conveyed to George Dent and others the tracts "Good Will Enlarged", "Poston", "Trifle" and "Keet's Purchase" which had been conveyed in 1817 by William Hatch Dent, Catherine Amelia Judith Dent, Lucinda Dyson, William Good and his wife Priscilla Ann, at which time his wife, Julianna Chapman Dent, was under age and therefore incapable of assignment.

THOMAS E. DENT⁵

1806-18—

Thomas E. Dent, son of Thomas C. and Rebecca (Chappelear) Dent, was born about 1806, in Frederick County, Virginia. He, however, settled in St. Mary's County where his ancestors had lived for several generations and there on December 14, 1827, he obtained license to marry Susan Hammett. His dwelling-plantation lay in St. Andrew's Parish, where the births of several children were recorded.

Children of Thomas E. Dent and Susanna Hammett his wife

1. Sarah M. Dent, born 1829, in Va., married Joseph N. Harrison. License Oct. 19, 1854, St. M. Co.
2. James Hammett Dent, born May 6, 1833.
3. Joseph Chappelear Dent, born Mar. 13, 1835, married Emeline R. Hammett. License Sept. 26, 1859, St. M. Co.
4. Martha Anne Dent, born Sept. 20, 1837.
5. Thomas Dent, born Oct. 21, 1839.
6. Benjamin Dent, born June 12, 1842.

His wife, Susanna Dent, received from her father, Bennett Hammett, by deed of December 1832 "Bennett's Pasture", "John's Ramble", "Abell's Addition", "Four Square" and "John's Dread", all containing 150 acres. In 1837 she was assigned by Sophia Hammett one-half interest in the realty of her late father, Bennett Hammett, under the terms of his last will and testament of October 1833, consisting of 200 acres bought by him of Hatch Turner and John Burroughs which adjoined the land of Enoch Hammett and Robert Hammett Jr.

CAPTAIN STOUTEN HUBERT DENT, C.S.A.⁶

1833-

Stouten Hubert Dent, son of Dr. Stouten Dent and Mary Catherine Smoot his wife, was born October 30, 1833, in Trinity Parish, Charles

County, Maryland. In 1854 he settled in the State of Alabama, where he married Anna Beall Young, born 1840. During the War Between the States he served as First Lieutenant of the Eufaula Rifles, First Alabama Regiment of Infantry, and later as Captain of Artillery, known as the "Dent's Battery of Light Artillery.

HENRY HATCH DENT⁶

1815-1872

Henry Hatch Dent, son of William Hatch and Catherine (Brawner) Dent, was born February 11, 1815, at Bryantown, Charles County. He was graduated from Yale with the Class of 1836, and subsequently studied law in Washington under Francis Scott Key. On September 14, 1841, he obtained license in the National Capital to marry Anne Maria Adlum, who was born March 27, 1815, daughter of John and Margaret Adlum, formerly of York County, Pennsylvania, but then of the District of Columbia.

Children of Henry and Anne Maria (Adlum) Dent

1. Margaret Katharine Dent.
2. Henry Hatch Dent.
3. William Dent married Frances Elliott Johnstone.
4. Adlunia Dent married Rev. Mr. Sterrett, of the Episcopal Church.
5. Ann Maria Adlum Dent married Thomas Gold Hull.

His wife died on June 10, 1849. The next year he removed to St. Louis, but returned East in 1863. He was a Democrat in politics and a delegate to the 1860 Democratic Convention in Charleston. He was an Episcopalian in religion and an intense Southern sympathizer during the War Between the States. He died in Baltimore on November 12, 1872.

JOSIAH DENT⁶

1817-18—

Josiah Dent, son of William Hatch and Catherine (Brawner) Dent, was born in or about the year 1817. He married Mary Kate Linthicum, of Georgetown, the daughter of Edward Magruder Linthicum, a wealthy and prominent merchant and philanthropist of that town. They owned and lived in what was called the Dent Place, now Dumbarton Oaks, one of the show places of Washington, now possessed by Harvard University, having been willed to that institution by the late Robert Woods Bliss. Dent Place, a street in old Georgetown, was named after this branch of the family.

According to the register of Christ Church, Georgetown, a son Edward Linthicum Dent, was born July 5, 1861, and baptized November 9, 1861. He later married Mary Gantt Taylor and died in 1899. The wife of Josiah Dent was buried on May 27, 1862, in the lot of Edward M. Linthicum in Oak Hill Cemetery, aged 29 years, 3 months and 28 days.

FREDERICK L. DENT⁶

1831-1916

Frederick L. Dent, son of Dr. Levi Dent and Pamela his wife, was born in Charles County during 1831. He married Lydia Susanna, daughter of Dr. Stouten Warren Dent and Mary Catherine Smoot his wife.

Children of Frederick and Lydia (Dent) Dent

1. Frederick Dent, one-time of Norfolk, Va.
2. Lydia Susanna Dent married ——— Wolfe.
3. Sydney G. Dent.
4. Warren L. Dent.
5. Edith Dent married James Webster Dent.
6. Elbert Dent, born 1865, married Jane R. Miller. *q.v.*

During the War Between the States Frederick Dent from his home in St. Mary's County was active at the beginning of the conflict in ferrying Southerners who were caught in the North across the Potomac to join the Confederate Army. And he seemed to have promoted this feat throughout the war—mostly at night to avoid interference and capture by the Yankees. The Dents were staunch sympathizers with the Southern cause and many served in the Confederate Army.

In August 1868, Frederick L. Dent and Lydia S. his wife deeded to Benjamin H. Sothoron, of St. Mary's County, land of which Levi Dent died seized, notably "Charlotte Hall", "Coole Spring Hill", and a lot in the village of Charlotte Hall.

His wife died in 1886, her headstone at the Old Field Chapel of Trinity Parish, reads as follows: "Lydia S. Dent, beloved wife of F. L. Dent, died Aug. 19, 1866, aged 48 years, 6 months and 1 day".

WALTER BREWER DENT, M.D.⁶

1830-1867

Walter Brewer Dent, son of Levi and Pamela Dent, was born in Trinity Parish, Charles County, and was baptized at the parish church on September 17, 1830. He studied medicine under a physician in St. Mary's

County and married Margaret Fowler who was born about 1827 in Maryland.

Children of Walter and Margaret (Fowler) Dent

1. May Dent.
2. Minnie Dent.
3. Hewitt Dent.
4. Milton J. Dent, born June 15, 1862, at Portage, Wisc., died Minneapolis, Minn., Aug. 13, 1935, married as his second wife, Carrie Ellington, born Nov. 13, 1861, Beloit, Wisc., died LaCrosse, Wisc., Nov. 13, 1936; left issue.
5. Warring Dent.
6. Cecil Dent.
7. Brewer Dent.

On October 4, 1851, he sold to Samuel T. Swann, of Charles County, all his interest in the 640-acre estate of the late Priscilla E. Keech. He and his wife migrated to Wisconsin and were living in Milwaukee in 1853, where their first child were born in 1854. They returned to Maryland, where their next two children were born, but before 1862, they returned to Wisconsin, where the nativity of the remainder of their children occurred. He died at Portage, Wisconsin, on August 3, 1867, and was buried in St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery of that city. His widow died in St. Mary's Hospital, Madison, Wisconsin, on May 25, 1914.

At the 1870 census, his widow, aged 42, was domiciled in the Fourth Ward of Portage, with the following members of her household at home: May aged 16; Minnie aged 13; Hewitt aged 11; Milton aged 8; Warring aged 7; Cecil aged 4; and Brewer aged 3.

ELBERT DENT⁷

1865-1904

Elbert Dent, son of Frederick L. and Lydia (Dent) Dent, was born in the year 1865 in Maryland. He married Jane R. Miller, his senior by about four years. He died in 1904 and his widow in 1948. Their son, Elbert 2d, married Victorine duPont.

ELBERT DENT⁸

1895-

Elbert Dent, son of Elbert Dent and Jane R. Miller his wife, was born in the year 1895. He was graduated from Princeton University in 1918, and then studied law at the University of Pennsylvania, graduating in

1927. At the outbreak of World War I he was commissioned an ensign in the Navy Air Corps and saw active service in France.

On July 6, 1927, he married Victorine, the daughter of Alfred duPont, of Delaware.

Children of Elbert and Victorine (duPont) Dent

1. Richard H. Dent, born 1928, married Julie M. Burk.
Issue: Melissa, born 1952; Stephen, born 1954;
Victorine, born 1958.
2. Alfred duPont Dent, born 1933, married Susan L. Wyckoff.
Issue: Susannah, born 1958.

From 1927 to 1938, he was a practising attorney with offices in Philadelphia, and at present is a director of a number of corporations, namely, Florida East Coast Railroad, National Board & Paper Mills, Ltd., of Waterford, Ireland, St. Joe Paper Co., Florida National Bank & Trust Co., of Miami, Apalachicola & Northern Railroad, St. Joe Telephone & Telegraph Co., and trustee of Estate of Alfred duPont. He maintains his residence at Greenville, Delaware, and offices at Jacksonville, Florida.



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